



CHAIN GANG

Women's strike for fair pay celebrated



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THE VET VIP

Actor meets creatures great and small



PAGE 3

Only 12 residents remain at care home

MORE than half the residents living at a care home near Stourbridge have moved out since the firm running it hit financial difficulties.

Elysian Care Ltd, which runs The Homestead in Prestwood, went into administration on Friday.

Earlier this month, Staffordshire County Council stepped in to pay staff and ensure care for the 25 residents continued.

This week there were 12 residents still at the home. Five are registered by Staffordshire County Council, five by Dudley Council and two independent residents.

Diana Frangou and Dilip Dattani of Baker Tilly have been appointed joint administrators of Elysian Care Ltd. The company also runs Knoll House in The Avenue, Penn. All of the residents have already been moved out of Knoll House.

Baker Tilly said: "Our key priority now is to ensure that The Homestead continues to operate efficiently with the minimum of disruption to the residents whilst suitable alternative accommodation is being sought. We will be working closely with the local authorities and will be supported by a specialist healthcare management company."

Awards for young people

NOMINATIONS are open for the public to honour the achievements of young people in the borough.

Dudley Youth Awards celebrate the efforts of people aged from 11 to 19 or up to 25 for those with a disability. There are six categories, organised by Dudley Youth Council, including arts, sport and contribution to school or college.

Nominations are open until November 7 and can be made via a form on Dudley Council website or forms at libraries.

MAJOR REVAMP FOR TOWN PARK

A £3.1 million revamp of a historic Stourbridge park will start in January, it has been announced.

Dudley Council has secured Heritage Lottery funding for work at Mary Stevens Park.

The scheme includes the restoration of the gates, railings and bandstand as well as the creation of a café in the park's tea gardens.

Improvements would also be made to the Heath Pool, to include a viewing platform, and the renovation of the war memorial.

Council bosses have launched a survey to get the views of residents on the future of the park ahead of work starting in the new year.

It is hoped the survey will help the council to establish how people use the park and what their aspirations are for its future.

Opportunity

Participants also have an opportunity to share the kind of activities they would like to see, which inform event planning at the park.

The survey is aimed at people visiting the park but can be completed by anyone that has been to Mary Stevens Park.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We know Mary Stevens Park is very popular with residents from Stourbridge and further afield and that why we are undertaking this important work."

"I hope that people will come forward and take part in this survey which will help us to establish how we can make the park even better for the current and future generations."

The council received a lottery grant of £2.6m towards the work. As part of the overall project, the main Grade II listed gates will

By Heather Large

be restored to their former glory. Residents and councillors have long campaigned for them to be spruced up.

A "graffiti shelter" for teenagers will also be restored. It provides a display area for 'the creative production' of graffiti within the park.

New footpaths will also be created and wildlife and nature conservation tasks will also be carried out on site by volunteers.

A heritage ranger has been recruited to work on a new and expanded programme of events and activities primarily focussing on the history and heritage of the park. They will be involved in maximising the use of newly restored features as well as increasing the involvement of volunteers.

Members of the Friends of Mary Stevens Park group, residents and councillors have been consulted on the plans.

Dating back to 1929, Mary Stevens Park was founded when wealthy industrialist Ernest Stevens donated land and buildings in memory of his wife for use as a public park. The park opened on April 6, 1931.

To take part in the survey people go to www.cfpuk.co.uk/msp/

Special guide to borough's real ale trail



Cheers — Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills with CAMRA members outside the Lamp Tavern in Dudley

REAL ale drinkers are raising their glass to a guide that showcases some of the best boozers in the Black Country.

The Dudley Real Ale Trail features 33 of the best real ale pubs in the borough, featuring beers from local breweries such as Bathams, Holden's and Enville.

The guide has been produced by Dudley Council and the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), and features a map and details on the pub, such as whether they serve food or offer overnight accommodation.

Steve Thompson, chairman of Dud-

ley CAMRA, said: "The Dudley Real Ale Trail shows off some of the finest drinking pubs in the Dudley borough."

Breweries featured in the guide include Sadler's, Olde Swan, Craddock's, Black Country Ales, Kinver and Sarah Hughes.

The eight-page leaflet provides the contact details and websites for all the pubs, along with a picture and a short description of each pub.

The map highlights where each pub is in the borough, along with major roads and bus routes so drinkers can create their own ale trail to sample the best beers that Dudley has to offer.

The pub guide is also split into areas, such as Lower Gornal, Sedgley, Stourbridge and Lye, so the creation of a personalised ale trail is made even easier.

Popular pubs such as The Beacon Hotel in Sedgley, the Lamp Tavern in Dudley's High Street and The Starving Rascal in Amblecote are included in the guide.

Copies of the leaflet can be picked up from libraries, town halls, leisure centres, and visitor attractions in the borough, and Dudley Council Plus. It is also available for download from the www.discoverdudley.org.uk website.

£5m glass museum has won approval

THE £5 million redevelopment of a former glass factory has been welcomed by councillors who gave it the go-ahead on Monday.

The site of the former Stuart Crystal factory will be transformed into a museum celebrating the glass making heritage of the area, as well as including 18 apartments and several commercial units.

The application for the redevelopment in High Street, Wordsley, opposite the Red House Glass Cone, went in front of Dudley Council's development control committee, who unanimously voted to give the scheme the green light.

Councillor Qadar Zada, chair of the committee, said: "For me this application ticks all the right boxes. It's a welcome development for a building of high significance."

"It would bring in residential, visitors, education a welcome boost to the economy. I certainly look forward to seeing this once it is fully developed."

The scheme will create 23 jobs and it is hoped the museum will attract more than 500,000 per year.

The museum, which will have a modern glass front, is to face the Glass Cone. It scheduled to open in 2016.



website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne Windows

For more information see page 10

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Alcoholic punched and spat at mother

AN alcoholic has been jailed for a 'disgraceful' attack on his mother. John Ward, of Wood Street, Kidderminster, threatened to cause his 53-year-old mother Beverley Ward 'a slow and painful death' in the unprovoked attack in Amblecote on August 18. The 34-year-old punched his mother in the face, spat at her, threw garden furniture at her and dragged her around by her hair.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "He pushed her and asked if she was scared when she replied 'yes' he said 'good, I'm in charge now'. The defendant picked up garden furniture and threw it at Mrs Ward hitting her on the arm. She pleaded with him to stop. "He then spat at her face and punched her to the left eye and kicked her in the leg.

"The defendant then said 'you know I'm going to kill you tonight'. He said it would be a 'slow and painful death'."

The attack on the Mrs Ward stopped when a family member saw Ward assaulting his mother and police were called.

Ward was tasered and taken to hospital, where he continued to be abusive and kicked at an officer.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "His only mitigation was that he was man enough to plead guilty."

Ward admitted actual bodily harm and assault on a constable.

He had been convicted in February for criminal damage when he was given a 12 week sentence suspended for 12 months. Ward admitted the breach and in total was jailed for 21 months.

Hospital cleared on restraint allegations

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital has been cleared of any wrong-doing after it was accused of illegally restraining patients.

An investigation found no evidence of unlawful restraint at the Dudley hospital but bosses have been told ward and security staff could benefit from additional training.

The review was launched after the hospital's former head of security, John Marchant, made allegations over unlawful restraint of patients earlier this year.

Denied

He claimed staff had routinely forced vulnerable patients to stay in their rooms.

But a six-month investigation by the Dudley Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards found no evidence of this at the hospital.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trustalways strongly denied the allegations.

The probe was co-ordinated with reviews by the Care Quality Commission, the Clinical Commissioning Group and an independent review commissioned by the hospital.

The board included members from Dudley Council's social care team, West Midlands Police and Age UK.

New tribute to war dead

AN island at Tipton Cemetery has been re-dedicated to the Royal British Legion in a poignant ceremony.

The roundabout has been decorated with a poppy made from black and red glass beads and was officially dedicated to the Tipton branch of the Legion.

The new display, in honour of Tipton's war dead, was unveiled by Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Derek Rowley, who also laid a wreath.

The design had been created by the Friends of Tipton Cemetery group with students from Ace Academy.

It's a sweet idea

A GYM in Dudley is getting into the Halloween spirit by asking its members to bring in bags of sweets to be given out on the children's ward at Russells Hall Hospital.

PureGym Brierley Hill, on Level Street, is offering a free day pass in return for family and friends.

THE NUMBER of people using leisure centres in Dudley is on the up, figures reveal.

There were around 1.27 million visits logged between April 2013 and March 2014.

The council runs sites in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge. Bosses say increasing the range of activities on offer such as fitness classes and a £1.5million revamp of the gyms at the sites has helped to attract more people. They say families are also becoming more health conscious.

Engineering firm in move to new HQ

A COMPANY that makes pressings and press toolings is moving its main operation from Tipton to Dudley.

Moseley Brothers, which dates back to 1919, has bought a 33,000 sq ft factory on Blackbrook Valley Industrial Estate.

The £2.5 million expansion plans will see the company, which also supplies specialist engineering services, grow its national and international presence.

Jaguar

The company's automotive clients include Jaguar Land Rover and it also exports to countries including Germany, South Africa, China and Mexico.

It is set to make the move from Vaughan Trading Estate in Sedgley Road East later this year.

The expansion is being completed with support from accountants Chantry Vellacott, the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Regional Growth Fund —accessed through Sandwell Council — and funding from Lloyds Bank.

Sister company GF Laser, one of the UK's premier laser cutting specialists, will also be re-locating to the new site.

The total number of visits went up from 1,231,326 in 2012/13 to 1,275,557 in 2013/14.

Dudley Leisure Centre saw visitor numbers rise from 286,481 to 296,808.

Halesowen Leisure Centre recorded 393,733 visits in 2012/13 and 399,688 in 2013/14.

Grow

Visits to the Crystal Leisure Centre went up from 551,112 to 579,061 last year.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said: "The popularity of our leisure centres continues to grow as more and more people opt for healthier lifestyles.

"People can choose from a wide range of activities including our state-of-the-art gyms, swimming pools and our packed programme of popular exercise classes at Dudley, Halesowen and Crystal leisure centres.

"Since our £1.5million investment in leisure centre gyms in 2008, membership has also soared from around 600 to 3,871."

Dudley Council closed one pool in 2009. Coseley Baths was shut despite a campaign by residents to save it from the bulldozer. At the time the authority said urgent work was needed to replace the electrics and fire safety equipment and improve disabled access to the pool.

They highlighted the number of alternative swimming pools, including a new £15m centre in Bilston.

First fight for women's fair pay



On the march for fair pay for women in a recreation of 1910's demonstrations

A REENACTMENT of the 1910 Cradley Heath women chainmakers' strike was held at the Black Country Living Museum on Saturday. Led by charismatic trade unionist Mary Macarthur, portrayed by Stourbridge woman Lynn Morris, a procession illustrated the womens' fight for a fair wage.

Mrs Morris tread out a victory speech to hundreds of visitors. Among those in the parade were members of the Fizzogs and Open Door Theatre. Mrs Morris said: "Mary Macarthur was an amazing woman,

I think we don't see powerful role female models like here anymore. She stood up against the powers that be for those without a voice, and won.

"We have been doing this for several years and we find people come back again to see it and to connect with her. They want to be inspired by what she did."

Deb Nicholls, from the Fizzogs, said: "I think for us, being from the Black Country and being women, it is important we remember events like this."

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Wanted suspect arrested by police

ONE of the Black Country's most wanted men has been arrested after a huge man-hunt lasting four months.

Donavon Wilson, of Sedgley, was arrested in Derbyshire and has now been charged with 13 offences.

Police said the net was also closing in on his alleged accomplice Omari Maitland, aged 20, from Wolverhampton.

Nineteen-year-old Wilson has now been charged with a robbery in Tipton, stealing petrol in Tipton, a burglary in Halesowen and three Wolverhampton robberies.

He has also been charged with an attempted burglary in Dudley, theft of a motor vehicle in Wolverhampton, theft of petrol in Wolverhampton, wounding in Tipton, aggravated taking of a vehicle in Tipton and a car key burglary in Codsall.

Police first issued a public appeal for Wilson after an alleged car jacking in Woodcross, Wolverhampton, on June 18, targeting a 38-year-old woman.

Wilson appeared before Wolverhampton magistrates' court on Saturday, after being arrested on Friday. He was due to appear at Sandwell magistrates' court yesterday (Wednesday).

Spooky fun at glass cone

A VISITOR attraction in Dudley will be providing Halloween themed fun for families this weekend.

The Red House Glass Cone's 'no tricks, just treats' free family weekend in Wordsley will run from 10am to 4pm both days. There will be craft activities, a spooky trail, magic shows and a chance to meet animals from Dudley Zoo.

There will also be glass-blowing demonstrations and children's entertainer Grand Wizard Popple will make an appearance. Fancy dress is encouraged for children and adults.

Education help

A NEW service has launched to make sure children with special educational needs or disabilities get the most from their education.

It replaces Dudley Parent Partnership and provides children and their parents with support including advice and workshops.

Angry residents want hospital bus service back

ANGRY residents were given the chance to voice their concerns to transport officials at a public meeting about the axing of an important bus route.

The service, which ran through Old Hill, Cradley Heath and Quarry Bank to Russells Hall Hospital, ended earlier in the summer.

Officials from National Express and Cenco attended the meeting at Birch Coppice Methodist Church in Quarry Bank with Councillor Bryan Cotterill. The representatives outlined plans for a replacement bus

service but both residents and Councillor Cotterill say they are not happy as the route does not go make some important stops, particularly Russells Hall Hospital.

Janine Willetts, of Bath Road, Brierley Hill, who was a regular user of the service, said: "We know that running a bus service is expensive, but we were told that the old 297 service costs £100,000 to run, and then they were telling us that the new 289 service which they want to put in will cost £125,000. Where is the sense in that?"

"I would like the old service back but I don't care what they call it as long as it goes to the right stops. There are a lot of vulnerable people around here who are old or disabled and the changes will just leave them without a service."

The replacement 289 service will be in place by November 30.

Another resident, Mary Rousell, said: "About a fortnight ago I went to Russells Hall for a blood test but a round trip that should have taken me less than an hour

took me two because I had to go up to Merry Hill and then wait for another bus.

"There is not a bus which goes straight to the hospital any more and that is my concern. We have a lot of elderly people who use the service who find the getting on and off buses very confusing. We just want our bus back."

Babs Coombes, Centro Black Country area manager, said: "We are trying to make it as easy as possible for people to get a connecting service to the hospital."

Hundreds move home to avoid 'bedroom tax'

ALMOST 350 council tenants across Dudley borough have moved to smaller homes following the introduction of the controversial 'bedroom tax', new figures reveal.

There has been a rush by families to downsize in a bid to avoid a cut in housing benefits.

Since bedroom tax started in April 2013, a total of 349 tenants have requested a transfer. The figures also include older residents who have decided to downsize to a smaller home but are not affected by the tax.

Under welfare reforms, anyone in council or social rented housing faces a 14 per cent or 25 per cent cut in their housing benefit if they have one or more spare bedrooms - meaning families potentially paying hundreds of pounds extra a year in rent unless they move to a smaller home.

The bedroom tax is also known as under occupancy charge or the spare room subsidy.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "Since the introduction of the bedroom tax 18 months ago, a total of 349 council tenants have been able to move into smaller homes. Bedroom tax was introduced on April 1, 2013, and the figures run from then until September 30, 2014.

"It should be noted that not all transfers will have been as a result of the welfare reforms. For example, the figures will also include older people who are not

By Heather Large

subject to the bedroom tax but are moving to smaller, more manageable accommodation."

The bedroom tax has also been blamed for people falling behind on their rent payments. Figures released in August showed there were around 5,435 households in arrears across the borough and the total amount owed to the council was £1,405,690.

The council has been offering additional support to families struggling to make ends meet. There has also been increased demand for the council's mortgage advice service which has helped more than 350 people this year.

Figures released this year showed around 4,000 people on the waiting list for council properties in Dudley. Of these, 2,091 were hoping for a one-bedroom property and 1,420 for a two-bedroom with 584 seeking a three-bedroom or bigger property.

Kidney charity shop appeal

RESIDENTS are invited to donate items for a charity event next week.

Dudley Kidney Patients Association is holding its latest appeal for donations on Thursday, October 30, between 7pm and 9pm at the charity's shop at 806 High Street, Kingswinford.

Call the shop on (01384) 401111 for further details of the sort of items needed.



Christopher Timothy with stray dog Liam at the new veterinary hospital in Hall Street

Helping creatures — great and small

ACTOR Christopher Timothy, who famously played vet James Herriot, met creatures great and small when he opened a new veterinary hospital in Dudley.

The star, best known for hit television series All Creatures Great and Small, opened Black's new £500,000 centre in Dudley.

Big beasts came in the form of giant Irish wolfhounds but Christopher seemed to be particularly taken with tiny Liam, a cross-bred dog who was taken in as a stray earlier this week. "I like this little dog," said the 74-year-old actor, as he gave Liam a cuddle. He also donned a stethoscope and surgical gown to examine Barkley, an Alsatian, who has acted as a foster father to a litter of stray kittens.

He was joined by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston for the official launch of the new animal hospital.

Partner John O'Flynn said he had grown up with the TV series, which also starred Robert Hardy and Peter Davison.

The hospital in Hall Street extends the practice's existing surgery with four operating theatres, an X-ray room and new ultrasound scanning room.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Public take a look at Aldi store plans

PLANS for a supermarket bringing 40 jobs to a landmark site in Dudley went on display to the public.

Hundreds visited the exhibition of provisional plans for an Aldi to be built on the King Arthur site, on the Birmingham New Road.

The 'roadhouse' style public house was built in 1939 but has been empty since it closed in 2012.

The designs for the proposed store and 94-space car park were on show at St Francis Parish and Church Centre in Poplar Crescent in Dudley.

Thirty homes on warehouse site

ALMOST 30 homes will be built on the site of a former tile warehouse in Wordsley.

The scheme earmarked for land, off Marine Crescent, has been given the go-ahead by Dudley Council.

There would be a total of 27 homes, a mixture of detached and semi-detached properties.

Two letters of objection were submitted to the council amid fears of increased traffic due to the development.

The warehouse was demolished in 2007.

Biblical theme for choir musical

TWENTY two members of Overend Methodist Mission choir have been rehearsing a musical entitled Apostle, by Birmingham composer Roger Jones.

Peter Fisher will sing the part of St Paul and Stephen Cornell will sing Ananias the priest. All are welcome to the performance in the church at Banners Lane at 6pm on Sunday. There is no admission charge but a collection will be made.

Slimming club to relaunch in Gornal

A SLIMMING club is set to relaunch next month.

The Slimming World club will take place every week at Straits Primary School in Lower Gornal, starting on November 12. Sessions run from 7pm to 8.30pm. The club is open to anyone aged 11 upwards.

Turn up on the night or contact Marion Woodhouse on 07887 594344.

Girl's TV dance

A GIRL from Sedgley was watched by millions of TV viewers in a sponsor's video for The X Factor on Saturday. Alder Coppice Primary pupil Amy Bates, 10, danced in a home video used by TalkTalk.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



PROVING there is no subject too awful, too appalling or too globally life-threatening to laugh at, a reader says he was amused to read that air passengers tested for Ebola will "have their temperature taken at entry points." Let's see if we're still amused six months from now, eh?

MANY thanks to Daniela Liverani, 24, from Edinburgh who chose this week to volunteer the news that, having suffered from nosebleeds for some weeks, she finally discovered she had a three-inch leech living in one nostril. I think most of us would have kept that to ourselves.

MICHAEL McIntyre stormed off the stage when a woman persistently used her mobile phone. I sympathise, coming fresh from a birthday party where a hugely-talented couple performed a selection of blues and soul standards. They were excellent but 90 per cent of the guests simply ignored them, talking over the music and not even applauding at the end. The simple courtesies, such as the ability to shut our traps and listen, are fading fast.

SO what do drivers really make of "driver awareness" courses, offered as an alternative to penalty points on your licence? You can find plenty of drivers who sing their praises, but then their view may be tempered by thankfulness at keeping a clean licence. A dissident breaks ranks to tell me: "I attended one of these courses and all I got from it was pins and needles in my bum. It was a complete waste of time." He calculated that the fees paid by drivers at his session amounted to £2,000 per half day. The two men running the course insisted there was no profit, but he was not convinced.

I NOTE that during the Most Secret Trial in History (the one about an alleged plot against Tony and Cherie Blair, and I may already have said too much), it emerges that selected journalists will be allowed to attend the court hearings and take notes, but not report anything, at least not for the time being.



Their notebooks are solemnly locked away at the end of each day. As any hack can tell you, there is a grave danger in this, namely the very brief shelf-life of shorthand. Like so many fine products, shorthand goes off. An hour or so after you've scribbled it feverishly into your notebook at 120 words per minute, it makes perfect sense. Leave it for six months, however, and it mysteriously decays and turns into mere squiggles. The Most Secret Trial in History may end up being even more secret than anyone intended.

JAMES Lusted was born with dwarfism and stands just 3ft 7ins, two feet shorter than his fiancée Chloe Roberts. They are a familiar site in their home city of Cardiff but the waitress in the local Harvester restaurant had never seen them before. So, in the best Harvester tradition, she seated the couple, gave Chloe a menu and picked up a kids' colouring book for the little chap. It was only when James spoke in his deep voice that she realised her mistake. She was embarrassed and Harvester are mortified. And the couple? Chloe and James think the whole incident was hilarious. It would have been so easy for them to be outraged and to demand payment for hurt, distress, loss of earnings, mood swings and the other usual pseudo-symptoms trotted out by compensation lawyers. Instead, they laugh it off. James, a motivational speaker and badminton star, says: "I am man enough to see the funny side. I would never take offence." Pity there are not more blokes like him. Little guy, big man.

WE have friends staying for a few days. Their kids, aged nine and 11, are prime examples of the wired generation, as familiar with tablets and smartphones as we were with conkers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Man is found dead in the canal

A MAN from Pensnett was found dead in the canal days after he had been arrested and bailed by police, an inquest heard.

Anthony Gennard was found by passers-by in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at Kinver

The 45 year-old had suffered from depression but there were no known issues since 2009, Cannock Coroner's Court heard.

Emergency services were called after reports of a body in the canal on July 5.

He was found with bail paper documents from West Midlands Police.

Submerged

A post mortem recorded showed Mr Gennard, of Blewitt Street, had been submerged at some point.

The inquest was told he had been

arrested and taken to Brierley Hill police station on July 3.

He was bailed the same day and it is believed that the single man, who lived with his brother, did not return home.

Family members who called the station were not informed about the developments and the case has since been referred to police professional standards.

Detective Sergeant Adrian Webb, from Staffordshire Police which investigated the death, said it was believed that he had suffered suicidal thoughts previously. But it is not known if he had those thoughts again or fell but third party involvement was ruled out.

Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh recorded a verdict of death due to being found drowned.

THE leader of Dudley Council says plans to streamline director roles will help transform the borough from a 'sleeping giant'

Councillor David Sparks spoke after the council voted in favour of plans to reduce director roles at the council from 22 to 11, saving £1 million.

However the proposals will also see the remaining positions receive an increased salary of around £30,000 more per year, which many councillors were opposed to.

Councillor Sparks said major changes at the top would mean the council would have a better focus.

He said: "Dudley is larger than most cities in the UK and for too long it has been a sleeping giant. It is about time our voice was heard."

Five directors earning £104,604 per year, who are in charge of departments and report to the chief executive, will be replaced by three 'strategic' directors.

The new 'strategic' director for people' who manages children's services, adult social care, health and well being, will receive a salary between £122,500 and £130,000. Salaries for the other two positions — director of resources and transformation and director for the environment, economy and housing — will be around £117,000 and £127,000. Seventeen assistant directors, currently earning £70,049 a year, will be replaced by eight chief officers earning £89,000.

Speaking out against the

By Charlie Benton

proposals, Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "When we have a council that pays some of its staff less than the minimum wage, when we have a council that employs a record amount of people of zero hours contracts, then now is not the time to reward those at the top of the pay scale."

Councillor Pete Lowe claimed UKIP's stance on the salary increase had changed. He said: "Councillor Ken Turner was previously clear in his stance as group leader and now with a new leader comes a new position. They are playing to popular opinion."

The current UKIP group Leader Councillor Paul Brothwood refuted the claim and said: "I want to underline that UKIP is totally opposed to the approved increases to fat cat salaries at Dudley Council. Our objections to these increases can be seen in previous committee meetings."

Handy art goes on show

YOUNG people have put their 'hands up for hand washing' by taking part in a poster design competition.

In the run up to Infection Prevention Week, Dudley Council's office of public health gave school children the chance to design a poster to promote hand hygiene.

The competition is part of the 'hands up for hand washing' campaign which highlights the importance of washing hands to reduce the risk and spread of infection.

Almost 600 young people entered and the winning designs will be displayed across the borough in schools, libraries and supermarkets to promote hand hygiene.

Pupils get their own bank



HSBC Schools Liasion Manager Anne Lowe with pupils and staff at Belle Vue Primary School

PUPILS are busy counting their cash after a mini branch of a bank opened at their school.

The new HSBC at Belle Vue Primary School in Wordsley aims to teach youngsters how to look after their money.

They have been able to open bank accounts to save their pocket money and some of the children have been trained up to be bank tellers.

Pupils at the school in Lawnswood Road each have a savings box at the bank.

Deputy headteacher Claire Davis said: "It enables the children to manage their money, to start a life-long journey of becoming financially responsible."

Staff said there had been a good response to the project and the children had been 'very excited' about getting their own bank.

HSBC says schools around the country can set up an in-school bank, supported by their local branch of HSBC. It is run by the schoolchildren, who are trained by HSBC staff and supported in a number of roles.

Absences at schools lower than ever now

THE number of youngsters skipping school in the Black Country has dropped to a record low following a Government crackdown on families taking holidays during term time.

The number of absences decreased across all four Black Country authorities. In Sandwell there were 925 fewer absentees, a drop of 1.1 per cent on the 2013 figure. In Dudley there was a 401 reduction, while in Walsall the numbers fell by 341.

Wolverhampton, which still has the highest rate of non-attendance in the region, saw a dip of 304 — a 1.1 per cent fall on last year's figure.

The figures include data for all state funded primary and secondary schools.

The Department for Education statistics also show the number of persistent absentees — pupils missing around 15 per cent of lesson — in schools across the Black Country and Staffordshire fell by 15 per cent in 2014, a drop of 2,001 on the previous year.

The drop is mirrored across the country, where pupils missed 35.7m school days in the 2013/14 autumn and spring terms, 4.2m less than the same period in the previous year.

Working to save heath

WORK on a rare lowland heath will safeguard the ancient area and its wildlife.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been clearing birch and oak scrub from an area of heathland on its Highgate Common Nature Reserve, near Kingswinford. The work carried out by staff and volunteers will encourage growth of heathland plants like bilberries.

The 326-acre reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and widely regarded as one of the best places to spot insects, with more than 5,000 varieties recorded on site.

Free alert service

TENANTS can sign up to an alert service by Dudley Council to keep them updated. The free service will automatically send information about upcoming tenant and resident meetings and council information. Sign up at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts

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Fewer on jobseeker allowance claim list

DUDLEY has seen another drop in the number of people looking for work in the borough.

Last month the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Dudley fell by 139, to 6,510 or 3.4 per cent of the borough's working population. The country as a whole has seen the claimant rate fall to 2.8 per cent.

But that slight drop adds to much better news with 2,400 people coming off the claimant queues in Dudley over the past 12 months.

But Dudley North MP Ian Austin sees no room for complacency as he called for more apprentices, more further and higher education to give young people the skills to attract new businesses and new jobs to the Black Country.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "We need more apprenticeships, more people staying on at school or college and going to university because the only way we'll attract new industries and new jobs to replace the ones we've lost is by having the skills new businesses need."

The borough is also set to benefit from the creation of 65 jobs with the development of the new £6 million Premier Inn currently being built in Stourbridge.

Glasgow link for brewers

A DIRECTOR of Bathams is to visit the Scottish amateur football ground that the Dudley brewery is sponsoring for the 2014-2015 season.

Matthew Batham will be watching Glasgow club Tannatall Victoria play at home in the Strathclyde Saturday Morning League on Saturday.

The club, known as The Tally Vic, has re-named its ground The Bathams after securing a sponsorship deal with the Brierley Hill brewery. The club badge now has the Black Country flag beside the Scottish saltire.

It's real Al(e)

A WOODSETTON brewery's latest movie-themed ale is a homage to Al Pacino's 1983 film Scarface.

Scaryface, a 4.2 per cent brew, is being sold at all of Holden's Brewery's pubs during October. The pump clip features a caricature of Pacino.

Friends aim to open Hippodrome in stages



Dudley Hippodrome — asbestos problem

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to save Dudley Hippodrome want to reopen the landmark building in phases.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome are to submit a business plan to Dudley Council aiming to bring the venue back into use. Group member Gaz Sawers said rooms surrounding the auditorium would be opened to community groups.

"We recognise the huge costs in modernising the venue to a standard it can be reopened, so we have come up with a phased opening," he said. "The first step would see the foyer and cafe opened, along with about

12 rooms to artistic community groups. This would help build funds to carry out the next step and renovate the auditorium.

"We're under no illusions over the size of the task but we believe it can be done."

Dudley Council set a deadline for the Friends, along with events company Events that Rok, to submit a business plan by the end of October. Jonathan Kendrick, from Events that Rok, wants to reopen the site as an entertainment venue.

Mr Sawers said they had not yet gained access to the site, even though the council is keen to make a final decision by the end of

the year over fears of further deterioration. Officers say around £400,000 would have to be spent on removing asbestos.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "We have told the group repeatedly over the last several weeks that they can access the building subject to their agreement to wear suitable protective clothing and to be accompanied by the council asbestos consultant. So far they have failed to come back to confirm either a date or who they wish to bring."

The council had granted planning permission for the building to be demolished.

More money to be spent on helping 'troubled' families

TROUBLED families in Dudley will have extra cash spent on them to tackle problems such as anti-social behaviour and truancy.

The council has been granted £2,000 per family to stop problems being passed from generation to generation. Around 2,500 families in the borough are set to benefit.

Dudley Council is one of only two authorities in the West Midlands to be awarded more Government funding towards its 'troubled families' programme.

Around 750 families were offered help during the first two years of the scheme and now the authority has revealed that it hopes to support a further 2,500.

Success for a positive art outlook

TWO artists from the Black Country have won a competition inspired by a mother who lost her daughter to depression.

Ann-Monique Stellinga, from Halesowen, and Sabrina Jones, from Dudley, were announced as winners of the Dawn Jones Art Prize last week.

The competition is run by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

In its ninth year, the prize was set up by Maureen Jones in memory of her daughter, Dawn Jones, who committed suicide in 2005 at the age of 25 following a long battle with depression. Sabrina said: "I really didn't think I was going to win. It was a great feeling, as it was something I never thought I'd achieve."

Maureen Jones, who was on the judging panel, said: "We had a great response."

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Violence

It will also reach out to families with a broader range of problems including those dealing with domestic violence to younger children who need help with a range of physical and mental health problems.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "The extra funding will allow more families in Dudley to benefit from the programme with further support for families affected by domestic violence and those suffering with a range of health problems."

"I would particularly like to thank the troubled families team and partner organisations who have worked tirelessly."

"As a result of Dudley's work, other councils across the country will potentially benefit from our early work in transforming the lives of families."

Also under the scheme, jobless people will be helped to find work and health issues such as teen pregnancies will be addressed.

History afloat for trust's open weekend



Visitors admire the narrowboats at Stourbridge Navigation Trust's open weekend at the Stourbridge Town Arm Canal. THE history of the Black Country canals was showcased by Stourbridge Navigation Trust.

Hundreds of people indulged in the region's culture at the trust's 31st annual open weekend next to the Bonded Warehouse in Canal Street, Stourbridge.

On both Saturday and Sunday, more than 100 canal boats were moored in the Stourbridge Extension Canal for visitors to see.

From pleasure boats to cargo boats,

people were able to learn about their history as well as information on the canals from the owners.

Visitors also took the opportunity to go on canal boat trips, including Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston.

As well as the narrow boats, there were displays of traction engines, classic cars and fairground organs.

A craft fair was also held, plus a bar was on site with a cafe inside the Bonded Warehouse selling warming

soups and ploughman's lunches.

Cliff Sherwood had his cargo boat, the Bellatrix, on show. The boat was built in 1835 in Cheshire and was used to transport coal for the Grand Union Canal Company.

Mr Sherwood, who is from Wall Heath, purchased the boat 49 years ago. He uses it to travel the country's canals, going as far as London. He said: "It's a pleasure coming to events like this and seeing old friends as well as meeting new ones."

Visitor centre to open at foundry

A FOUNDRY is planning to open its new visitor centre next month. Family firm Thomas Dudley, in Birmingham New Road, has invested £50,000 to create the new facility which will enable school groups to see an iron foundry in action.

It will be called the John Dudley Foundry Visitor Centre after chairman John Dudley, 77, who will cut the ribbon to open it. Joint managing director Martin Dudley said: "It will let schoolchildren see what we do without any danger. There is a viewing gallery from which you can see the whole foundry."

Pink cone day is boost for hospice

MORE than £1,000 has been raised for charity during a 'pink day' at a Stourbridge visitor attraction.

Staff at the Red House Glass Cone dressed in pink at the event. There was a tombola and pink cake on offer.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The Pink House Glass Cone event was a huge success with more than 350 people visiting over the weekend helping to raise £1,130 for Kemp Hospice in Kidderminster."

Pools closing for maintenance work

THE pools at Tipton Leisure Centre will close for up to six weeks while maintenance work is carried out.

The 25-metre pool and learner pool will shut to the public on November 2.

The contractors, Willmott Dixon, say the work will take no longer than six weeks.

Some swimming sessions will take place at nearby ACE Academy.

Tenants meet on high-rise issues

COUNCIL tenants who live in Dudley borough high-rise properties can discuss issues relating to their estates at a meeting.

It takes place on Tuesday, November 4, at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Netherton. The session is 7pm to 8.30pm, refreshments served from 6.30pm. To attend call (01384) 815168.

New fitness class

A FITNESS class has been launched in Stourbridge. Nigel's Waist Watchers will run every Wednesday night from 7.15pm for an hour at St Michael's Church Centre, Maynard Avenue, costing £3.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

SOMETIMES you wonder whether the top brass of public sector organisations such as the BBC have been infiltrated by some cutting-edge comedy act, whose role is to provide endless satirical material to make life as easy as possible for us columnists.

For example, how else could one explain the recent report that old Auntie Beeb has blown £200,000 of licence-payers' money teaching its staff how to use iPhones?

Straight away, MP Philip Davies, who has turned BBC-bashing into something of an art form, was presented with an open goal. Predictably, he was quick to remark that if BBC staff were so stupid that they couldn't use an iPhone, then the corporation should probably change its recruitment process. And who could argue with that?

Except that I wouldn't know how to operate an iPhone either. And not because I am stupid – although, many will argue that may well be the case – but simply because I have never had cause to use one of the devices, and nobody has ever shown me.

However, I would hazard a guess that they usually come with some form of instruction booklet, so you would not think it beyond the wit of most BBC professionals to be able to read those before embarking on a £200,000 training programme.

And when I needed to use an iPad for the first time, I devised a particularly cost-efficient training programme which I think the BBC could learn from. I asked a technically savvy colleague to show me what to do, simplyes.

□□□

OF all the nations you might expect to come up with a solution to end all wars and bring everlasting world peace, I must concede that I never thought that the Russians and the Australians would figure highly.

But it looks like a spat between Australian premier Tony Abbott and Russia's Vladimir Putin has unwittingly come up with a way to resolve all future conflicts without armies ever having to take up arms against one another again.

London-born Abbott fired the opening salvo, saying he was going to 'shirt front' Putin over the shooting down of the M17 airliner, which claimed 38 Australian lives. Apparently, 'shirt-front' is Antipodean slang for charging a player in the chest in Aussie-rules football, and is not considered sportsmanlike behaviour.

Anyway, not to be outdone, Putin has now reminded Abbott that while he might be good at cycling, it is the Russian leader who is the judo champion. Fight!

Wouldn't it be refreshing if, instead of sending thousands of young men to their deaths every time they had a disagreement, world leaders just settled their differences with a good old-fashioned fist fight, no innocent parties involved?



First World War pilot William Robinson Clarke



Gp Cpt Adolph Gysbert Malan and FS Vincent Bunting



Flight Lieutenant Trevor Edwards

Unsung pilots who rose to challenge

October is Black History Month and KIMBERLEY CRAYTON-BROWN tells of the volunteers of war

THEY are the little-known volunteers of war.

Thousands of black men and women from Africa, the Caribbean and Britain stepping forward to defend Britain, her Empire, and the Commonwealth in two world wars.

Unable to enlist because of a colour bar, relaxed before the Great War but quietly reimposed when the war ended, their help was again called on in 1939.

And now, coinciding with Black History Month, an exhibition highlighting their vital war efforts is on display at the Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford, telling the stories of the Pilots of the Caribbean - Volunteers of African Heritage in the RAF.

Diversity

Inspired by a photograph of two pilots posing with a Spitfire - one from Barbados, one from Trinidad - the exhibition highlights the air force's success in embracing diversity and 'demonstrates how the rich, cosmopolitan nature of modern Britain owes much to the black men and women who wore air force blue'.

Peter Devitt, assistant curator at the RAF Museum in London, said it all began in 2011 when they were asked to talk to a group of disadvantaged, black youngsters.

"It went very well until I showed them a picture of two black Spitfire pilots. It went deadly quiet – and then the atmosphere became totally electric. I was bombarded with questions. They wanted to know everything about these men. One young man looked me straight in the eye and said: 'Why haven't we heard this before?'"

Museum trustee Brendan Connor also



Flying Officer Arthur Weekes and Flight Sergeant Collins Joseph

recalled the reaction to the black Battle of Britain pilots: "They were completely bowled over; they had never seen it before.

"It was not part of their history and we suddenly realised that we hadn't told a story which needs to be told."

The photograph is the centrepiece of the exhibition, telling a story that started 100 years ago with display boards, photographs, video and memorabilia, and has been put together in partnership with the Black Cultural Archives.

Pictured is Flying Officer Arthur Weekes, from Barbados. A member of the Second Contingent recruited for the RAF, he departed Barbados in November 1940 to join the war. With him is Flight Sergeant Collins Joseph of Trinidad alongside the Spitfire Vb. Both were fighter pilots with 122 (Bombay) Squadron.

Records on a website detailing Caribbean air crew from WWII show Flight Sergeant Collins Alwyn Joseph, aged 28 and a pilot with 132 Squadron RAF Fighter Command, died on New Years

Eve, 1944. Trained at Piarco, and a volunteer from Trinidad ETS, his Spitfire went missing at 1530 hours on December 31 during an air operation between Liege and Aachen.

The pair were two of many role models who played an integral part in the development of the air force, Peter Dye, director general of the Royal Air Force Museum, said: "From First World War pilot William Robinson Clarke, to the young volunteers of today, Afro-Caribbean men and women have played an integral part in the development of the Royal Air Force and the defence of our freedoms and liberties.

"In this exhibition, the Royal Air Force Museum aims to celebrate their contribution to the development of modern Britain, while providing all young people with a series of role models to inspire and guide them in realising their own ambitions and dreams."

Numbers

As the volunteers were fully integrated into the service and their ethnic origin not entered on their personnel records, the exact number of black volunteers who have served in the RAF is unavailable.

It is estimated 6,000 volunteers from West Indies communities, such as Barbados and Jamaica, served in the RAF during the Second World War. Of those, about 400 were air crew, either in Bomber Command, Coastal Command, or Fighter Command - which saw the first black volunteers selected to train as fighter pilots in 1941. Bomber Command had four-fifths of African-Caribbean aircrew in active service.

Volunteers served with all UK-based RAF commands, with the exception of Transport Command, which visited countries intolerant of integrated crews.

Of the thousands of volunteers, about 150 were killed in training or combat operations. Over 100 were awarded gallantry medals.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

IT is absolutely right that UKIP's Nigel Farage should be included in an ITV debate between party leaders in the run up to the General Election.

But so, too, it is correct for there to be a head to head on Sky and Channel 4 between David Cameron and Ed Miliband without Mr Farage or Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg present. The Tory and Labour leaders are the only ones who stand a chance of being Prime Minister next year.

The viewing public need be reminded of the real heads or tails choice they face in at least one of those debates.

What is particularly galling for some politicians is the plan of the BBC to hold a debate including Mr Clegg but excluding Mr Farage as well as the leaders of other parties, such as the Greens and Respect, all of whom like UKIP currently have at least one MP.

The Liberal Democrats are a busted flush, according to UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge. He said: "If anything, it should be the Lib Dems arguing - to keep their place in the debates, not UKIP arguing to be given one."

He has a point. The Lib Dems lost their deposit in no fewer than seven by-elections since 2010. There are parts of the West Midlands where they did not even bother standing in council elections.

They might well be a party of government, but they have no more chance of winning a majority than any of the minor parties. As such, Nick Clegg deserves to be relegated to a debate with the minor parties.

Better still, he and Mr Farage should go head to head as the ones whose parties the opinion polls indicate are currently vying for third place.

There is every chance Nigel Farage could be as much of a kingmaker next year as Nick Clegg was in 2010.

What their parties demand in exchange for their support in the event of a hung Parliament could change the future of Britain.

IN Westminster, the Tories love to claim all the credit for the recent good news on unemployment. Yet their opposition leader on Wolverhampton City Council suggests there are not quite the reasons to be cheerful there should be.

Wendy Thompson is unhappy the city has the highest percentage of people claiming Jobseekers' Allowance and calls on the Labour council to do more, saying she does not want its recent business week to be dismissed as 'hot air'.

Councillor Thompson is to be congratulated for her willingness to speak truth to power, even if she ends up on the wrong side of her own party line. But if things do get better, something tells me David Cameron and George Osborne won't share credit with Labour-run Wolverhampton City Council.

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Were original bosses under-employed?

RE council directors wrangle. Councillors D Sparks, P Lowe and S Turner's defence of this proposal does raise further questions such as, are the existing management to be offered the opportunity to apply for these new positions and are those being axed being offered new positions. Will the original support teams and managers that the original council officers (directors/assistant directors) used still be in place?

Councillor Sparks states that to attract people to these jobs, substantial salaries need to be paid. So, will these new three

strategic directors and 17 assistant directors guarantee to cope with the work in the same time that a previous larger number of directors and their assistants required?

If so, then the original incumbents were under-employed and the council taxpayers did not receive value for money.

Who can say that will not happen again, especially if they are selected by the same interviewers that approved of the original incumbents?

G H DOWNING
Brierley Hill

Hospitals won't cope with Ebola

I HEAR on the news that certain hospitals are being geared up in case of an outbreak of Ebola in the UK.

With so many smaller hospitals being closed down in favour of super hospitals with fewer beds than those being closed, I wonder how this country will cope in the event of an outbreak.

Would this mean that general illnesses which should be treated by hospitalisation would not be able to be dealt with in hospital with the possible loss of life?

Is it not time that hospitals were staffed with more frontline troops at the expense of non-medical employees and the closure of many of the older hospitals stopped? The old hospitals can be renovated and put to good use. An example of this is the Queen Elizabeth where the old hospital has had to be brought back into use because of lack of space in the new hospital. What about Sandwell and City hospitals when the proposed Midland Metropolitan Hospital is up and running?

L HALES
Cradley Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Referendum is no answer over mosque

IN answer to the letter from Mr Etheridge MEP, I am undoubtedly one of the politicians he referred to as failing miserably to deal with the mosque issue in Hall Street.

I did not sit on any fence suggesting a shuffle away from real responsibility but dared put my head above the parapet and fully supported the vast majority of local voters without any question.

I also collected nearly 85,000 signatures, most at my own personal expense! For that I was rewarded with the loss of my political career, position within that party I represented after years of hard work building it from nothing and de-selection as their Parliamentary candidate having obtained

the highest number of votes in their own league table at the previous General Election.

I was not at all surprised to read your headlines regarding the two councillors Turner. I know what was endured by the two.

Hard work and maximum effort has got the giant unwanted edifice rejected to date and to even suggest a local referendum is a sign of spineless book passing.

Let's see if Labour will fall for a proper metropolitan area referendum or if they argue the case for the immediate area of the proposed development with the prospect of a Muslim vote of around 45 percent with the inevitable result.

MALCOLM DAVIS
Dudley

Odd number plate events

HAVE I missed a change in the law?

Motorcycles don't require front number plates, fair enough, but has anyone else noticed the number of cars driving around with the front number plate missing?

They can usually be noticed lying flat on the dashboard against the wind screen, impossible to read.

The fact that most of the offenders are 'boy/girl racer' types leads me to think this is the latest in a string of things done to look cool, but why do these people never appear to get stopped?

I notice them all the time, even though it is really none of my business.

With number plate recognition being used more to check for insurance, tax and MOT, is this a way of avoiding detection?

R GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Right to fine dog owner

I REFER to an article where a Quarry Bank man was initially handed an on-the-spot fine of £75 for allowing his dog to foul in a park in April. The person refused to pay and failed to attend the court. The court fined him in total in his absence more than £460.

Councillor Hillary Bills said: "This sends a clear message out that we will not tolerate people allowing the dogs to foul our parks and open spaces". I agree with the councillor's remarks, providing that we get the money from this person?

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Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell addressing troops from the Riqueval Bridge



Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell led the victory



Troops making their way over the Riqueval Bridge during the battle

Lecturer tells how the war was won by Staffordshire Brigade

IT was a key moment in the lead-up to victory in the First World War, according to the Allied Commander-in-Chief and 'the blow from which there could be no German recovery'.

And it was delivered by thousands of Staffordshire soldiers who had previously only been trusted with routine operations. The 137 (Staffordshire) Brigade's heroics in breaking the Hindenburg Line at Bellenglise, France is often overlooked. Now a military expert is attempting to redress the balance to make sure the soldiers get the recognition they deserve.

Troops needed to get across the St Quentin Canal, which at some points was 6ft deep but also had thick mud in sections that had begun to dry out.

By capturing the bridge, they could push back the German line to the point where they had no room for manoeuvre. But they were hampered by dense fog and fierce enemy attacks. Last week, Dr John Bourne,

MEMORY LANE

By Adam Burling

from Burslem held a lecture entitled 'How Staffordshire Won the First World War' at the university campus in Stafford.

He is a vice-president of the Western Front Association, a member of the British Commission for Military History and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and he ranks the achievements of the Brigade as among the greatest in modern military history.

In the years before the First World War Staffordshire showed staunch support for the recently-created Territorial Force.

The first TF division to deploy to France, 137 Brigade suffered cruelly in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13, 1915, which was the worst day of the war for casualties in Staffordshire, and again at Gommecourt on July 1, 1916.

But on September 29 the Brigade broke the Hindenburg Line at Bellenglise, which

was where the German army had retreated to. Dr Bourne says it was 'one of the most spectacular feats of arms on the Western Front'.

It was described by Marshal Foch, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, as the 'blow from which there could be no German recovery'.

The Brigade had 4,000 men at full strength but the influenza pandemic had hit numbers.

Dr Bourne said: "The Hindenburg Line was not really a line at all, it was a dense position full of barbed wire, machine gun nests, drop out points and bunkers, with masses of artillery."

"The division had to cross the Riqueval Bridge at St Quentin and they had a pretty bad time of it."

"They had very little powerful artillery and there was thick fog. The vast majority of the men could not swim so they got across the water by suspending a chain across and swinging from it. But the bridge was the best way to get across, though it was being strongly defended."

A key element was the capture of the Riqueval Bridge by a group led by Captain Humphrey Charlton, a Kings Bromley vicar's son. He had joined the Veterinary Corps, was called up to join the conflict in 1915 and led an inspiring against the odds victory.

The Brigade's most famous leader was Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell, who was later awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 when he rallied his men and led them against the enemy machine-guns, capturing the guns and killing the personnel.

Aged 40 at the time, an image of him addressing thousands of troops from the Riqueval Bridge shows the sheer scale of the operation.

The Brigade prevented the German troops blowing up the bridge by bringing down the rows of men showering them in a hail of machine gun fire. It meant they could cross the bridge and push the German army even further back.



Dr John Bourne, who put together a lecture on the subject

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Doctor saves the life of a rugby player on pitch

A DOCTOR has been praised for saving the life of a rugby player on the pitch after he was knocked unconscious during a match.

Tony Carter was on hand to help 21-year-old Ben Fairclough, who swallowed his tongue after receiving a knock to his head in the game on Saturday.

Mr Fairclough had been playing for Yorkshire side Otley against Stourbridge Rugby Club at Stourton Park in the National League 2 North.

Choking

Mr Carter, who is a team doctor for the Stourbridge club, prevented the player from choking by clearing his airways before paramedics arrived and took him to Russells Hall Hospital. Andy Verlander, Stourbridge manager, said the player, who was being watched by his father, was released from hospital last night.

Otley's director of rugby, James Tiffany, praised Stourbridge Rugby Club and Mr Carter for their quick response.

He said: "I want to thank the medics from Stourbridge, because they did a fabulous job. It just shows the importance of having a doctor on hand."

Mr Verlander said: "If we didn't have a doctor present we would have lost that lad. It was Tony who went in there and took control before the ambulance arrived. He did what was needed."

The incident happened shortly before half-time in the game, and forced a half-hour break in play. Mr Carter, who lives in Stourbridge and works in Kidderminster, was assisted by club physios Jim Williams and Will James.



Saved - Ben Fairclough swallowed his tongue when knocked unconscious

Mr Verlander said: "The lad has gone in for tackle a bit too low and found his head in the wrong place. He took a knock to the head from a knee and collapsed. As soon as it became obvious what happened the game was stopped. We're happy he was okay."

Mark Luffman, Otley first team coach, said he understood Mr Fairclough had returned home in Doncaster. He said: "I would like to add my thanks to the club doctor and physios

who acted like a real team to do a great job in what was a very serious situation."

Stourbridge lost 37 points to 23. Meanwhile, Stourbridge footballer Ben Billingham is facing months out the game after suffering an horrific injury during his side's clash at Matlock. The midfielder suffered a dislocation and two fractures to his ankle after seeming to catch his studs in the turf. Billingham underwent surgery.



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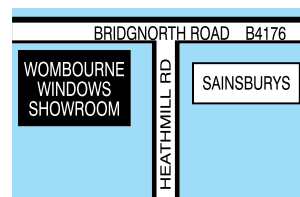
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'Moonwalk' antics by witness halts court case

A MAN convicted of killing his girlfriend in Crete has been cleared of attacking a man in a pub after a witness was filmed doing a Michael Jackson 'moonwalk' while waiting to give evidence.

Luke Walker, who is appealing his conviction of killing his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman in Crete, stood trial last week with friend Luke Seeley over the alleged incident at Tenth Lock pub in Brierley Hill. But on the third day of the trial the case against the pair dramatically collapsed after a video of the witness doing the dance was spotted on Facebook.

The footage, which was filmed and uploaded by another witness involved in the case, showed the man wearing a glove and holding his groin while doing the dance.

The Crown Prosecution Service said the witnesses' action undermined the case.

In court, no further evidence was offered and Judge John Warner directed not guilty verdicts from the jury.

Mr Warner told the witnesses involved in the pub episode: "You are liable to prosecution for a criminal offence or contempt of court. That decision has not yet been made but you will have to come back to the court. I would advise you to seek legal advice."

One of the witnesses said the film had been made because they were bored. He said: "I filmed him as he did the Moondance. He was holding his groin and we were both laughing. There were 17 conversations about the film on Facebook."

"I did not know I was not allowed to do it. It was a joke."

The witness who was filmed dancing also said it had been joke.

Walker, aged 26, of Gayfield Avenue, and Seeley, 26, of Channon Drive, both Brierley Hill, had been accused of at-



'Massive relief' — Luke Walker outside Wolverhampton Crown Court

tacking an 18-year-old in the men's toilet of the pub on November 9 last year.

The jury heard from three prosecution witnesses, including the alleged victim. He claimed he was set upon by the pair after walking into the pub toilets with two friends. He was taken to hospital, where the jury heard he was treated for a gash to his forehead.

Both Seeley and Walker denied the charge, claiming they had been acting in self-defence. But before evidence could be brought forward by the defence, the case was dropped and placed on file.

Walker is currently on bail after he was convicted of causing grievous bod-



Chelsea Hyndman, 20, was killed on the Greek holiday island of Crete

ily harm to 20-year-old Chelsea Hyndman, leading to her death in Crete four years ago. He was sentenced to eight years in prison but the sentence was suspended pending the appeal.

Walker described the decision to drop the case as a 'massive relief'.

A spokesman from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service said: "As a result of significant inconsistencies in the evidence given to the court by the three key witnesses at the trial of Luke Walker and Luke Seeley, combined with their conduct in the witness waiting room which gave the impression that they were not taking the trial process seriously, the prosecution team reviewed the case."

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Fun-loving teacher who influenced many pupils

A TEACHER who worked in Dudley and Stourbridge schools, as well as in Switzerland and Nigeria, has died aged 81.

Barbara Jew, of Whittington Road, Norton, was much loved by her pupils at Wollescote Primary and Rufford Primary Schools, both Stourbridge, and at Highgate Primary, Holly Hall, where she was deputy head.

She had a great love of poetry and music and led her young students on many successful expeditions to festivals for performing arts. She also played roles in several plays staged at Stourbridge Town Hall.

African

Born in Netherton to Ted and Eva Lucas, she attended Dudley Girls High School and qualified at teacher training college in Leeds. She went to work at a finishing school in Switzerland, where she taught in fluent German to young ladies among them, princesses and the daughters of millionaires and aristocrats from across the world.

She married Bob Jew, from Halesowen, and joined her husband in Nigeria, where he was a cocoa bean buyer for Rowntree Fry & Cadbury. They were living in the African 'bush' when she became pregnant with their first child, Louise, born in 1957. "She was a very brave lady, it must have been so scary for a young mum-to-be miles from anywhere in the African bush," said Louise, a journalist.

Barbara returned to England to have her second child, Nigel, who was born in Sedgley in 1958. The family moved back to Nigeria in 1962, spending two years in the towns of Warri and Aba. She taught in several African schools and in the afternoons would teach European children, including Louise and Nigel, on the veranda at her home.

Returning to Stourbridge, Barbara



Sense of fun - deputy head Barbara Jew on roller skates at Highgate Primary worked first at Wollescote Primary, then at Rufford Primary and finally at Highgate Primary, before retiring in her mid 50s. Barbara had a great sense of fun and, when she mentioned to her class at Highgate that she needed roller skates because the corridors between classrooms were so long, one of the pupils presented her with a pair.

She and Bob, 84, had been married for 58 years and have four grandchildren — Luke, doing his doctorate in astro physics at Oriel College, Oxford, Eva, studying illustration at Brighton,

Joe, a hairdresser, and Danny, studying maths at Leeds University.

Son Nigel, aged 57, who is a business coach, said: "We know that our mum had a wonderfully nurturing influence on the lives of the hundreds of young people she taught."

Barbara died at Russells Hall Hospital on October 10. A celebration of her life will be held at Stourbridge Crematorium on October 31 at 11.40am, when family and friends are invited to wear a flower and dress in their Sunday best of any colour.

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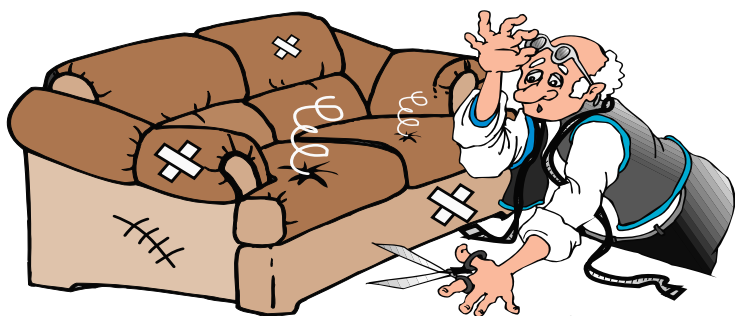
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It's more Lady Blah-Blah than Gaga

Lady Gaga, NIA, Birmingham

LADY Gaga gets the applause from her Little Monsters, as she calls her fans, but her spectacular two-hour show lacked momentum.

This is partly because Gaga likes to jaw jaw. Her homilies on creativity, self-belief and equality turn into sermons. Surely she must know she is preaching to the converted.

I wonder how many in the audience would have preferred to have heard

Judas performed in full, rather than blended into Aura, or a complete The Edge of Glory, rather than the snippet we got. However. Just Dance, Poker Face and Bad Romance were fantastic.

Gaga's outfits included a mermaid bikini, a cross between a Dalmatian and an octopus, a girl out of a Japanese comic and, in homage to Cher as she covered Bang Bang, a curly brown wig and red leather jacket. Often she was wearing a lot less.

She wrapped herself in a Union Flag thrown on stage by a fan and at the piano Lady showed her vocal power with a stunning performance of the ballad Dope. She read out an emotional letter from a fan called Jason before bringing him and his boyfriend on stage to serenade them with a slow version of Born This Way. Moments for Little Monsters to treasure. Lady Gaga is back at the NIA on November 13.

Leon Burakowski

Lakeman whips up the energy

Seth Lakeman
Town Hall, Birmingham
IF you want someone to whip a crowd into a frenzy using horsehair then Seth Lakeman is your man.

The Devonshire singer's Word of Mouth tour arrived in the second city with the thumping track, The Courier.

Straight away Lakeman showed his signature style of hammering his fiddle like a scout frantically trying to start a fire using two sticks.

This set the pace for most of the night which was, apart from a few slow ones in King & Country, Shores of Normandy and Portrait of My Wife - which he did as a duet with Lisbee Stainton, high energy and full of musical enthusiasm.

The audience were itching to get out of their seats and with The Colliers Lakeman finally let them off the leash and there was dancing in the aisles.

Lakeman went out as his came in with all guns blazing with Kitty Jay and Blood Upon Copper even throwing support act Kim Churchill into the mix.

Danny Farragher

REVIEWS



Michael Legge as George and Benjamin Dilloway as Lennie

1930s tragedy that still packs a punch

Of Mice And Men, Birmingham Rep

JOHN Steinbeck's tragic tale of broken dreams in 1930s rural America still packs a punch in this stark and brutally effective production at The Rep.

The story is based on the relationship between a pair of migrant agricultural workers. Fast-talking dreamer George looks after his slow-witted but strong companion Lennie, as their latest casual job on a Californian ranch leads to an apparently inevitable calamity due to Lennie's uncontrollable urge for affection.

Director Roxana Silbert's production doesn't shy away from the casual racism and sexism prevalent in that time and place, including frequent use of the 'n' word.

The bleakness of the situation is represented by Liz Ascroft's desolate set.

The cast bring out the dark humour in Of Mice And Men, as well as the heartache. Michael Legge superbly portrays a man having his hopes crushed as George, whilst Benjamin Dilloway is hugely sympathetic as child-like Lennie.

Of Mice And Men continues until November 1. **LB**

The bawdy boys' songs of sailors

Fisherman's Friends
Town Hall, Birmingham

THERE are no frills, no light shows, no smoke machines in fact very little in terms of a stage show at all, it's simply about the voices of the eight ordinary blokes from Port Isaac.

They did pretty much what they do most Friday nights in their native fishing village during summer, stand around and sing traditional songs and sea shanties with the occasional bit of banter mostly from front-man John Cleave.

This was the band's third time in the Second City and they kicked off with a very bawdy tale based loosely on the famous shanty, Blow the Man Down.

As individuals their voices aren't particularly outstanding but then when they harmonise as a group you get the real point of Fisherman's Friends.

Their rather theatrical rendition of Coast of High Barbary, a tale of spooks and ghost ships was a real treat. Their act is good, honest and down to earth and great to listen to.

Danny Farragher

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COMPETITION

Shows set to give a taste of Christmas

WITH more than 150 exhibitors and 1,000 competition entries, Cake International – The Sugarcraft, Cake Decorating and Baking Show is the largest of its kind and is set to be the best yet – and Chronicle readers have the chance to go for free.

Returning this autumn to the NEC from November 7-9, the event will showcase a host of exciting exhibitors and features to inspire budding bakers and 'wow' just about anyone with the incredible creations on display. The show will be opened by chocolatier Will Torrent.

Crafted especially for Cake International Birmingham, the Cake Grotto will be a staggering 10ft long Christmas extravaganza complete with edible rocking horses and reindeer.

Sponsored by the Birmingham-based cake board company, Dummies Direct, the Grotto will be a delight to behold for children and adults alike.

And there is another chance to experience the magic of Christmas next month at the Crafts for Christmas and Hobbycrafts at the NEC, Birmingham from November 6-9. The popular festive show offers a treasure trove of gifts and treats. From jewellery to board games, handcrafted toys to decorations, the Christmas offering is endless.

A schedule of fantastic workshops and demonstrations will take place throughout each day of the show. Visitors will learn how to create handmade Christmas decorations to add some festive cheer to the home.

The Chronicle is offering 90 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets (please specify show choice).

To book show tickets call 01425 277988.



Lots of Christmas craft ideas

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer this question.

Who is the chocolatier?

Send answer on a post-card with your name, address and contact number to Cake/crafts Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, October 30. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision final. No multiple entries.

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A flying start as pupils enjoy being at school



'Good teaching provides pupils with work that is both interesting and relevant to their future' — new head teacher Keith Butler and the school's deputy head Jane Lister at Ashwood Park Primary School in Wordsley

EDUCATION FEATURE

EXCITING times are ahead for Ashwood Park Primary School. New Head Teacher, Keith Butler and his team extend a very warm welcome to this very welcoming school.

We get the children off to a flying start here at Ashwood Park and our Toddler Group and Nursery are thriving.

We can cater for wrap around care from 7.30am till 6pm.

Our Breakfast Club and 'Oscar' after school club are very popular with working parents!

Situated at the bottom of Bells Lane, in Wordsley, the school has superb grounds which encompass a forest schools area, three playgrounds and an extensive field for PE and outside play.

Keith said "We are extremely lucky to have lots of space to extend the learning at school outside."

"There are plans afoot to further utilize the space and with our curriculum extending to embrace the

Global Dimension, we are even planning an outside Gambian Classroom!"

The school has recently been granted money from The British Council to link with a deaf school, St Johns in Serrekunda, near the Gambian capital of Banjul.

Two staff are going out to Gambia in November and will explore Gambian culture including schools, teacher-training and daily life in the West African country.

Achievement

The school was awarded a 'Good' rating by Ofsted in February 2014 and is going from strength to strength.

Ofsted said: "Pupils' achievement is good and improving throughout the school in English and Maths, they are well prepared for secondary school."

"Attendance is above average, which reflects the children's enjoyment of the school."

"Good teaching provides pupils with work that is both interesting



Ashwood Park Primary School is located in pleasant surroundings

and relevant to their future," added the Ofsted statement.

"The governing body and provides a good level of challenge and support to the head teacher and staff."

At Ashwood Park Primary School we follow the 'Irresistible Learning' curriculum which provides a creative and exciting way of delivering cross-curricular topics which the children love!

"I love our Irresistible Learning afternoons" said Year Five pupil Amy. "You get to do all sorts!"

"The stunning starts are always

exciting, we don't know what we're going to be doing till we walk in the classroom"

"I really enjoyed the Fabulous Finish."

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Teen twins are on the ball for scholarships

TWINS Laura and Rebecca Tildesley are combining their love of netball with a degree after securing sports scholarships.

The sisters, from Tipton, who both play at regional level for West Midlands Warriors, as well as for Dudley Leisure Netball Club, have joined a group of elite athletes at the University of Worcester.

The students receive additional support to nurture their sporting talent and combine it with their academic studies. The pair, who are 18, joined the university last month after completing their A-levels. Laura studied at Ace Academy in Tipton while Rebecca attended Birmingham Metropolitan College in Stourbridge.

Laura is now studying for a degree in sports studies, while Rebecca is studying sports therapy.

Laura said: "We have been involved in netball since we were really young as our mom plays. We wanted to go to a university where we could continue with our netball and get our degree and Worcester was the best option for us."

The University of Worcester has a top-flight netball programme and for the past two years has hosted the national Netball Superleague finals at the University of Worcester Arena.

Last year the University women's first and second netball teams were undefeated, with the first team securing promotion to division 1A and the second team promoted to division 4A.

Rebecca said: "We are really happy to be studying at Worcester and are looking forward to all the extra support we will get as part of the scholarship." University of Worcester Director of Netball, Sheli Morgan, said: "I am really delighted to welcome Laura and Becky to our squad."



Laura and Rebecca Tildesley, from Tipton, who are top netball players

All-weather pitch for uni

A NEW £250,000 floodlit all-weather pitch is to be created at a university complex on the border of Walsall and Sandwell.

The Aston University sports site in Birmingham Road has received funding from Sport England to complete the project.

It will replace the synthetic pitch which has suffered from drainage and flooding problems and will be open to students and the community.

Work is due to start next spring for

completion by the summer, subject to planning approval.

Director of Sport, Mike Kirkman, said: "We recognise that we have an important role to play in encouraging students to live healthy, active lifestyles and to continue playing sport during their period of academic study."

"Our new pitch will help us deliver on that commitment while also enhancing the facilities on offer to the local community at this important sports venue."

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Green supporters back book shop

A NEW not-for-profit book shop has opened in Dudley run by supporters of the Green Party.

Saturday Books is in Tower Street and was opened last week by Green Party prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dudley South, Vicky Duckworth.

The shop will be open on Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

A spokesperson said: "It's not a traditional retail outlet or a charity shop. Contributions of good quality books are welcome, and are paid for. This is a social enterprise, there to provide a service for Dudley shoppers, not make massive profits. It is staffed by volunteers, all of whom have an equal say in the running of the shop."

Region police top for stun gun use

POLICE officers in the West Midlands are firing Taser stun guns more than any other force in the country, latest figures show. In six months, the shock guns were fired by regional officers on 120 occasions.

Metropolitan Police fired the guns 114 times, while Greater Manchester Police was the third highest with officers firing 90 times.

Staffordshire Police, meanwhile, fired 27 times and officers from West Mercia shot them on 16 occasions.

When it came to the amount of times Tasers were brandished, West Midlands was ranked the third highest force in the country behind London's Met and Greater Manchester.

Hoard brought to life in new interactive display

By Andrew Turton

SOME of the world famous items from the Staffordshire Hoard are being brought to life in a new interactive exhibition.

Around 1.5 million people have been to see the hoard on display since it was discovered in a farmer's field in Hammerwich, near Lichfield, five years ago.

Now they can get a new perspective on this fascinating find as more than 300 ornate pieces go on display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The display will shine a light on conservation work to protect the precious finds.

Exquisite

The gold and silver items will be brought into focus using microscopes giving visitors a close up view of some of the Anglo Saxon treasure.

Touch screens and videos will allow people an even greater insight and help unlock the secrets over the designs and history of the 1,400-year-old objects.

Visitors can find out about the exquisite craftsmanship used to create the items and learn how the designs of the objects can be linked to many regions across Europe.

Many of the well known pieces will be on display including the folded cross, the Millefiori stud and sword pommels.

The display will become a permanent home to many pieces from



Get a close up view — conservation co-ordinator Pieta Greaves with a replica of a cross

the Staffordshire Hoard, which has been on tour across the country. The exhibition was developed with a £700,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Birmingham Museum's director, Ellen McAdam, said staff were excited to have the exhibition open to the public.

"The Staffordshire Hoard is one of Birmingham's most popular collections and this new gallery will give visitors an even greater access to this unique find," she said. "Last year alone over 100,000 people from across the world came to see the Hoard at the museum. We look forward to welcoming many



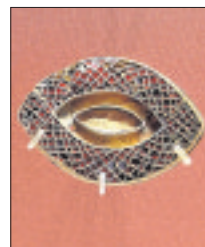
Some of the many fragments of Anglo-Saxon treasure on display in the new Birmingham exhibition

more visitors in years to come."

Visitors can also peek into Anglo-Saxon England in the 'Mead Hall' showing how a 7th century Lord and his warriors lived. Staff will stage a range of themed games for children to help them discover more about that period.

The Staffordshire Hoard was

discovered in 2009 by enthusiast Terry Herbert with his metal detector. Further items were excavated by archaeologists in 2012. It is one of the most important Anglo-Saxon finds ever made, consisting of gold, silver and garnet decorative fittings dating to the 7th century.



Eye shaped mount with cloisonne garnets



Hilt collar with an intricate filigree decoration

European officers join road operation

OFFICERS from across Europe are linking with West Midlands Police for a week-long crackdown against foreign criminals using the roads network.

A contingent of officers from eight countries — including Romania, Lithuania and Poland — are joining forces in the region this week.

They will be targeting overseas drivers involved in crime or flouting the rules of the road during Operation Trivium.

The officers will be helping members of the Central Motorway Police Group on road-side operations and raids.

But they will also step in to support West Midlands force officers overcome practical obstacles, like language problems, and tap into their home country's police systems to verify details supplied by foreign nationals they question.

More than 2,800 foreign cars were stopped with 371 seized and 200 people arrested when Operation Trivium was last run nationally in March.

The operation also brings police officers from Latvia, Holland, Denmark, Finland and Ireland — alongside European and European roads policing group TISPOL — heading for Birmingham.

West Midlands Police Superintendent Paul Keasey, who is leading the operation, said the action sends out a clear message to criminals from overseas.

Hob Green Primary School



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City will feel sting of sharp Steel

EXPECT jibes at Wolverhampton's expense when sharp-witted Mark Steel's Back in Town, recreating his radio show which bases his material on the town he is visiting. You can find out if Mark has done his research well when he appears at the Wulfrun Hall tonight (Thursday).

Also tonight, poet and satirist John Cooper Clarke is at Birmingham Town Hall. On Sunday Jamaican comedy legend Oliver Samuels is in play Dollyhouse at the New Alexandra Theatre and Jon Richardson's Noddy show is at Birmingham Hippodrome. On Friday, October 31, it's between Noel Fielding's surreal ramblings at Wolverhampton Civic Hall and Ross Noble's Tangleman at the New Alex.

From a big truck to songs as the Big O

A SINGER from Halesowen has become one of the top tribute acts to rock and roll legend Roy Orbison.

Barry Steele first found his talent for emulating 'the Big O' on a holiday in Cornwall 13 years ago when his family entered him in a singing competition. A fellow competitor said that his version of Robbie Williams hit Angels sounded like it was being sung by the late American hitmaker Roy Orbison.

That comment led to a new career for the former truck driver who now tours in show Roy Orbison and Friends. He is at the Wulfrun Hall on October 31 and at the New Alexandra Theatre on November 29.

Peter swings back into action for his Symphony Hall concert

Head for hoedown with Hall

GRUMPY American comedian Rich Hall is bringing his musical mates for a hoedown mash-up of music and comedy in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Deadpan Hall was an inspiration for Matt Groening when creating bartender character Moe Szyslak in The Simpsons and is a familiar face on British TV. He has performed at comedy clubs across the world and is known in the United States for appearing and writing on The David Letterman Show.

In the UK he has appeared on Have I Got News For You, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and QI, as well as his own TV documentaries How the West Was Lost, Rich Hall's Cattle Drive, Rich Hall's Election Special and Rich Hall's Fishing Show.

Rich Hall's Hoedown comes to the Wulfrun Hall on Thursday, October 30, and Birmingham Glee Club on Monday, November 3.



Long train coming — grouchy comic and musician Rich Hall is West Midlands bound

TV celebrity and singer Peter Andre has launched his first UK tour for two years, after releasing his swing album Big Night.

He returns to Birmingham for a concert at the Symphony Hall on Saturday where he promises to combine elements from big band swing and soul.

He will not be neglecting the song that brought him fame, Mysterious Girl will be performed alongside songs from his previous albums Revelation and Accelerate. Let's just hope he can include Insania too!

The 41-year-old Anglo/Aussie/Cypriot entertainer, who is currently planning his marriage to 23-year-old trainee doctor Emily MacDonagh after the birth of their daughter Amelia, is now as famous for his reality TV show as his music. He also presents 60 Minute Makeover on ITV and has added a new string to his bow by designing fragrances.

Tonight (Thursday) legendary Stax and Blues Brothers guitarist Steve Cropper is at the Robin 2 in Bilston. Tomorrow singer-songwriter Dave Giles is at the O2 Academy in Birmingham, whilst nearby Digbeth's The Institute hosts two plum gigs in its rooms with New Jersey's Real Estate performing songs from their excellent Atlas album and St Vincent (alias American singer-songwriter Annie Clark) performing her quirky pop. Acclaimed singer-song-



Big Night — Peter Andre

writer Joan Armatrading brings Love & Affection to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday, same night Irish folk duo Leo & Anto play the city's Slade Rooms.

One of the biggest new stars of 2014 Sam Smith has a sold out gig at the O2 Academy on Monday, as Jungle play The Institute.

Singer and soap star Heather Peace is at Birmingham Town Hall on Tuesday and Yorkshire singer John Newman, who updated Northern Soul with Love Me Again, is at Wolverhampton Civic on Wednesday.

Grand time to be a country music fan

IT'S a grand time for country fans. The Grand Union Songwriters' showcase features three acts with Texan rising star SaraBeth on a bill which also features Essex-born Nashville-based Glen Mitchell and blues influenced Lancashire lass Jess Roberts. It is being held at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Tuesday. British country veteran Charlie Landsborough is at the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Wednesday.

Next month Push For The Stride sisters Catherine and Lizzy Ward Thomas are in a double bill with The Shires at Birmingham Glee Club on November 4. More singing siblings, from a famous Birmingham family, The Cadbury Sisters bring harmonies to the Glee tonight.

Folk harmony and dust bowl ballads

IF you want to hear some heavenly harmonies then don't miss The Staves on Sunday when they play The Institute's Temple venue, Birmingham. The trio have a new EP out called Blood I Bled. The show starts at 7pm.

Liverpudlian singer, activist and Woody Guthrie fanatic Alun Parry will be playing Unicorn Folk Club in the function room of The Bradford Arms, Ivetsy Bank, Wheaton Aston, tomorrow (Friday). The show starts at 8.30pm and tickets are £4.

The Old Dance School will be bringing their sound to Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath, Birmingham on Wednesday 7.45pm.

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CHOICE



Tony Robinson

Walking Through History: Bronte Country (Channel 4, 8pm)

Tony Robinson has spent three series of this programme rambling through some of Britain's most extraordinary landscapes. In fact, he's covered so many miles, it's a wonder there are any places he hasn't been. Nevertheless, the actor-turned-presenter must have been scouring his Ordnance Survey maps closely, because he's back with another bunch of epic treks, beginning with one that takes in the dramatic moors and valleys of West Yorkshire. It's the area that inspired such amazing pieces of literature as the Bronte sisters' Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre, and Tony does indeed follow in their footsteps by visiting their birthplace in Thornton and their old home at the parsonage in the village of Haworth.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James May's: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Rugby League: Four Nations Highlights. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. **3.30** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.45** Point to Point Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present another round of pro-celebrity ballroom action as the celebrity hoofers who upset the judges in earlier editions try to do better – and hope to avoid the same fate as last week's eliminated couple – while those who have shown early promise aim to climb further up the leaderboard. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress as the hopefuls perform a mixture of routines.

8.20 **Doctor Who.** One morning, the human race wakes up to find the planet has been invaded by its own trees, as overnight a forest has grown everywhere and taken back the Earth. The people are stunned but the Doctor knows more – this bizarre stranglehold of vegetation means the final days of humanity have finally arrived. Peter Capaldi stars in an episode scripted by Frank Cottrell Boyce, the writer of movies including 24 Hour Party People and The Railway Man.

9.05 **Casualty.** Connie has a complaint made against her, while Dixie continues to rage about Jeff – causing ripples through the department and a confrontation with Ash, who still feels guilty about his colleague's death. Lofty treats a boy who is sick of being stopped and searched, and Zoe makes a welcome return – and brings an extra surprise with her.

9.55 **The National Lottery Live.**

10.05 **BBC News:** Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Manchester City at Upton Park and Liverpool v Hull City at Anfield; National Lottery Update.

11.45 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30** Rugby League: Four Nations. **8.00** The Trials of Life. (R) **9.50** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **10.40** The Private Life of Plants. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.30** Film: That's Entertainment! (1974) Compilation of highlights from MGM musicals, starring Frank Sinatra. **2.35** Film: Silk Stockings. (1957) Musical, starring Fred Astaire. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** The £100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R)

6.30 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don provides hints and tips for seasonal tasks to be getting on with in the garden as the days become shorter. Carol Klein visits Dan and Dominique for the very last time. (R)

7.00 **Restoring England's Heritage.** Louise Minchin investigates the historic buildings at risk in the North West, and asks whether it is too late to save some of the region's finest properties from ruin.

7.30 **Swallowed by the Sea – Ancient Egypt's Greatest Lost City.** A team of maritime archaeologists investigates the remains of the lost city of Heracleion, which sank into the Mediterranean around 1,200 years ago and was rediscovered in 2000. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 **QI XL.** Josh Widdicombe, Sue Perkins and Frank Skinner join Alan Davies in an extended edition of the quiz as host Stephen Fry asks a range of questions about levity, levitation and lights.

9.45 **Dylan Thomas: A Poet in New York.** Tom Hollander stars in this drama charting the poet's final days. In 1953 Dylan Thomas went to New York for the last time, his marriage a wreck and his drinking out of control. He was on his way to meet Stravinsky and to bask in New York acclaim – but what was he escaping and how did the intended triumph become a requiem? (R)

11.00 Film: **The Accidental Husband.** (2008) Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman and Colin Firth.

12.25 TOTP. **1.25** Film: Kicks. (2009) **1.45** (GMT) This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** The Munch Box. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **1.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.15** Tipping Point. (R) **4.20** Film: Jurassic Park III. (2001) Action adventure sequel, starring Sam Neill.

6.00 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.15 **ITV News:** Weather.

6.30 **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring home-made bombs, an emu stealing a smartphone, and tips on how not to trim a tree.

7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Football presenter Adrian Chiles, Hollyoaks star Gemma Merna, Holby City's Rosie Marcel and broadcaster Jon Snow compete for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 **The X Factor.** The remaining acts relive classic big-screen moments as they perform songs from the movies, battling to win votes from millions of viewers at home. Dermot O'Leary provides much-needed support on stage, while Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Mel B and Louis Walsh take their seats behind the judges' desk to cheer on their own acts. As the competition hots up and the numbers fall, there are certain to be a few dramas and disagreements on the panel.

10.10 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** On the sofa tonight are actor Daniel Radcliffe, actress Lindsay Lohan, former England captain Rio Ferdinand and comedian Russell Brand.

11.15 **ITV News:** Weather.

11.30 Film: **The Beguiled.** (1971) A wounded soldier given refuge in a girls' school during the American Civil War arouses sexual jealousy among teachers and students. Drama, with Clint Eastwood.

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** (GMT) The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Ironman World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Fraser. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 **Come Dine with Me.** Nail artist and beautiful Gina Shepherd hosts the final dinner party from Sheffield. (R)

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud revisits a memorable restoration project in the remote Creuse region of central France. Back in 2003, when Denise Daniel and Doug Ibbs gave up everything in the UK to start a new life abroad, they couldn't have known what was ahead of them. Falling in love with a dilapidated manor house with just four crumbling walls and half a roof, they embarked on a mission to transform it – working day and night, doing everything themselves, year after year – until slowly but surely they created a magnificent edifice out of the ruins they bought off the internet. It's now the 70th anniversary of the destruction of the original 19th-century building by the German army – and the house is finally finished. (R)

8.00 **Walking Through History: Bronte Country.** New series. Tony Robinson traces the childhoods of the Bronte siblings on a four-day trek through West Yorkshire exploring the harsh reality of 1820s life for the literary family.

9.00 **Film: This Means War.** (2012) Two secret agents find their lifelong friendship threatened when they fall in love with the same woman. The smitten spies cannot resist using their espionage skills and an array of gadgets to spy on her and sabotage each other's chances of romance, distracting them from a terrorist planning revenge on them. Comedy, with Tom Hardy.

11.00 **Film: Friends with Benefits.** (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

1.05 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **1.00** Film: (GMT) 20 Million Miles to Earth. (1957) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** NFL: Hard Knocks. (R) **5.30** NFL: The American Football Show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.05** Access. **10.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.10** Film: Mosquito Squadron. (1968) Second World War drama, starring David McCallum. **2.55** Film: 55 Days at Peking. (1963) Drama, starring Charlton Heston.

6.00 **Film: When Hell Broke Loose.** (1958) A small-time crook is drafted into the army during the Second World War and proves a less than capable soldier. While stationed in Germany, he falls in love with a local woman and goes AWOL – only to discover her brother is involved in a plot to assassinate General Eisenhower. Drama, starring Charles Bronson.

7.30 **World War II in Colour.** A look at how Nazi U-boats' efforts to sever transatlantic supply lines and the Allied firebombing of German cities affected the course of the conflict as efforts were made to develop new weapons and strategies to bring a rapid end to hostilities. The new British and American focus on destroying the enemy's infrastructure resulted in a high number of civilian deaths – a controversial decision that continues to be criticised today – while the Germans' plan to throttle their most stubborn enemy by attempting to be victorious at sea ultimately failed thanks to technological advancements in the UK. (R)

8.25 **5 News Weekend.**

8.30 **Live International Boxing: Monte Carlo.** Stuart Hall v Randy Caballero. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the vacant IBF World Bantamweight title, held at La Salle des Etoiles in Monte Carlo. Hall is looking to regain the title he lost in a split decision defeat at the hands of Paul Butler in June, but faces a tough task against the unbeaten American.

11.00 **Gotham.** Detective James Gordon is on the trail of two child snatchers who are targeting the city's homeless youths, with the hope of uncovering more information about the Waynes' killer. (R)

11.55 **Access.**

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** (GMT) Alex Polizzi's Secret Italy. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.00** Sherlock. **10.30** Live at the Apollo. **11.00** Family Guy. **1.35** The Revolution Will Be Televised. **1.05** (GMT) Bad Education: The Finale. **1.35** Live at the Apollo. **2.05** Impractical Jokers

BBC Four

7.00 Land of the Lost Wolves. **8.00** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession. **9.00** The Code. **10.50** Elvis: That's All Right 60 Years On. **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1973. **12.30** Land of the Lost Wolves. **1.30** Sounds of the Sixties. **1.00** (GMT) Even More Guitar Heroes at the BBC. **2.00** Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession. **3.00** Close

ITV2

11.55 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! Trials and Tribulations. **12.55** Film: Junior (1994) **3.05** Film: Arthur and the Great Adventure (2009) **5.15** You've Been Framed! **5.45** Film: Miss Congeniality (2000) **8.00** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **10.10** The Xtra Factor. **11.10** Celebrity Juice. **11.55** The Job Lot. **12.25** The X Factor. **1.35** (GMT) The Xtra Factor. **2.25** You've Been Framed. **2.50** Teleshopping. **4.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.40 Film: Columbo: Etude in Black (1972) **2.40** A Touch of Frost. **4.45** Wycliffe. **5.55** Inspector Morse. **8.00** Rosemary & Thyme. **9.00** Midsomer Murders. **11.00** A Touch of Frost. **1.05** Bomb Girls. **1.55** Wycliffe. **2.00** (GMT) ITV3 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.10 British Superbike Championship Highlights. **12.45** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Muelheim, Germany. **5.00** Highway Patrol. **6.00** Storage Wars. **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Muelheim, Germany. **11.00** Film: Air America (1990) **1.20** River Monsters. **1.25** (GMT) Nicola Adams: Sports Life Stories. **2.20** Cheers. **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Melissa & Joey. **12.00** The 100. **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **1.00** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **2.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **3.00** Made in Chelsea. **4.00** New Girl. **4.30** The Big Bang Theory. **5.00** Film: Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **6.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **7.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: Limitless (2011) **11.10** The Inbetweeners. **12.10** How I Met Your Mother. **1.10** (GMT) Rules of Engagement. **1.35** The Cleveland Show. **2.20** Bob's Burgers. **3.05** Make It or Break It. **3.55** Smallville. **4.30** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 Arizona Raiders (1965) **12.50** Martin Scorsese on Hugo. **1.00** Home Alone 3 (1997) **3.00** The Parent Trap (1961) **5.40** The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) **9.00** Office Space (1999) **10.45** Killer Joe (2011) **12.50** The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover (1989) **2.20** (GMT) The Comedian (2012) **4.00** Close



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HARLEQUIN



CHOICE



Bradley Walsh (middle)

Keep It in the Family (ITV, 7pm)

New series. Bradley Walsh hosts a game show in which families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. A line-up of celebrities each hold the clue to a prize, and it's up to the contestants to determine the fate of their chosen box as they decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. Taking part in the first edition are six members of the Emmerdale cast – Mark Charnock (Marlon), Natalie Anderson (Alicia), Dominic Brunt (Paddy), Samantha Giles (Bernice), Chris Bisson (Jai) and Charlotte Bellamy (Laurel).

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **3.00** Talk to the Animals. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.55** Life Story. (R) **5.55** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. Northumberland is the location as Matt Baker discovers that Hadrian's Wall is a stronghold of one of the UK's rarest plants and finds out how a world-famous discovery at the wall just 50 years ago has told people most of what they know about Roman armour. Ellie Harrison joins amateur astronomers enjoying the best dark skies in England and finds out about the different ways to photograph stars. Adam Henson is in the market for a rare breed Portland ram, former farmer and trained butcher Gareth Barlow looks at the British beef industry, and Tom Heap investigates the impact that falling milk prices are having on British dairy farmers.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and Culture Club perform one of their greatest hits.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team returns to Cheries Manor near Amersham in Buckinghamshire, where items include a forgotten train set, a collection of pocket watches and an ornate plant stand.

9.00 Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered. Dallas Campbell reveals new scientific research aimed at getting to the truth about the boy pharaoh's death at just 19, including DNA analysis and a CT scan of his mummified body.

10.00 BBC News. Regional News.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Chelsea, Burnley v Everton and Tottenham Hotspur v Newcastle United.

11.40 The Apprentice. (R)

12.40 Film: Deceived. (1991) Thriller, with Goldie Hawn. **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 (GMT) Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. Autumn Special. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Sweet Baby James. (R) **12.20** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.20** Film: War and Peace. (1956) Historical drama, starring Audrey Hepburn. **4.40** Escape to the Continent. **5.10** Flog It! (R) **6.00** Inside the Animal Mind. Chris Packham continues his exploration of the minds of the cleverest animals on the planet by examining the problem-solving abilities of crows. (R)

7.00 Human Universe. Is mankind alone, or are there aliens out there, either waiting to be discovered, or on their way to find Earth? Professor Brian Cox spends this episode asking such questions, and what he discovers may raise a few eyebrows. He begins by exploring the human race's efforts to find neighbours in outer space, including the launch of two golden discs containing a greeting from Earth in the 1970s; they are still travelling and are now the most distant man-made objects from the planet. Brian also meets members of the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, who have been monitoring radio signals for 50 years without success, before discussing the ingredients needed to make an intelligent civilisation with astrophysicist Dr Frank Drake. (R)

8.00 Wonders of the Monsoon. Documentary examining the plants and animals that thrive in monsoon areas, such as the black crested macaques and maleo birds of Indonesia, and the Rajah Brooke's pitcher in Borneo.

9.00 Afghanistan: The Lion's Last Roar? First of a two-part documentary telling the story of the conflict in Afghanistan, beginning with how initial miscalculation led to near catastrophe shortly after the troops arrived.

10.00 Russell Howard's Good News. The comedian offers his perspective on stories dominating the media, whether on TV, online or in print. (R)

10.30 The Fall. (R) **12.30** The Fall. (R) **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Autumn Special. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.15** Horrid Henry. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Film: Carry On Cleo. (1964) **1.05** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.50** The Unforgettable Yootha Joyce. (R) **2.20** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.35** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Keep It in the Family. New series. Bradley Walsh hosts a game show in which families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds to win big prizes with the help of celebrities.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The tension in the studio is palpable as the contestants learn their fate.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Following the altercation, relations between Robert and Cora are strained, while Blake's scheming starts to come to fruition when Mary is unexpectedly pitted against her love rival. Edith decides to take drastic measures after receiving terrible news, leaving various parties reeling. Baxter is embroiled in the investigation into Green's death following a mysterious tip-off, and as Thomas's health deteriorates, he finally reveals the truth to the maid. Elsewhere, love is in the air for more than one member of the Crawley family.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Harry's South Pole Heroes. Part one of two. Prince Harry joins four injured British soldiers on a 125-mile expedition in the Antarctic as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013. (R)

11.15 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Roger Moore. The former Bond star recalls the highs and lows of his acting career and personal life. (R)

12.15 The Store. Home shopping. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 (GMT) How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** American Football Live. Atlanta Falcons v Detroit Lions (Kick-off 1.30pm). **5.00** The Simpsons. (R) **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.55** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes.

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. New series. The motorbike racer takes part in four more speed-based challenges and gets his hands dirty in unique engineering projects to discover what makes things go fast. In the first programme, he finds out how far it's possible to travel on a bicycle during 24 hours of non-stop pedalling. With the help of bike experts Miles Kingsbury and Mike Burrows he builds a tandem, and pairs up with his friend, endurance expert Jason Miles, to see how far they can push their bodies. In the build-up to the final record attempt at the historic Goodwood Motor Circuit, Guy also learns about the science of cooking for athletes with nutritionist Nigel Mitchell, who instructs him to lose five kilos and recommends a new diet regime.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie makes a delicate alliance with her counterpart at Pakistan's secretive Inter-Services Intelligence, and intervenes when Fara fails to recruit a key asset. Elsewhere, Queen is still reeling from events in Islamabad, and zeroes in on a potential lead.

10.05 Film: Four Lions. (2010) Four British Muslims form an incompetent terrorist cell and hatch a scheme to attack the London marathon. Chris Morris' satirical comedy, starring Riz Ahmed and Kayvan Novak.

12.10 American Football Live. New Orleans Saints v Green Bay Packers (Kick-off 12.30am). Nat Coombs is joined by Mike Carlson to present coverage of the clash at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. **3.45** The Grid. (R) **4.10** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie and Phil revisit their oldest-ever house-hunters. (R) **5.05** Win It Cook It. (R) **5.35** Countdown. With Dictionary Corner guest Dave Meyers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Seaside Antics. **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.05** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.55** Little Princess. **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.40** Zack and Quack. **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.00** Great South Run. **12.00** World's Scariest Plane Landings. **12.45** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. (2011) Comedy sequel, starring Jason Lee. **2.25** Film: Kangaroo Jack. (2003) Comedy, starring Jerry O'Connell. **4.10** Film: The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin.

6.20 Film: Speed Racer. (2008) Premiere. A teenager dreams of following in his dead brother's footsteps and being a champion racing driver. As he becomes increasingly successful on the track, he discovers the sport is being manipulated by corrupt corporations. Joining forces with a mysterious former rival, he vows to bring the fat cats' race-fixing schemes to an end. Action adventure from the creators of The Matrix, starring Emilie Hirsch.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Angels & Demons. (2009) Academic adventurer Robert Langdon is called in by the Vatican to deal with a crisis. The Pope has died and the four cardinals in line to be his successor have all been abducted by a mysterious sect that is threatening to murder them. As he searches for the kidnapped clerics, Langdon discovers the cult has an even more horrific plan in mind. Thriller, with Tom Hanks.

11.45 The Da Vinci Code: The True Story. Exploring the claims made in Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code, including an intimate relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene and the final resting place of the Holy Grail. (R)

12.40 Campus PD. Documentary series following police who patrol college towns in America. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 (GMT) Great Movie Mistakes **8.00** Doctor Who: The Ultimate Guide **8.15** Doctor Who **9.00** Come Fly with Me **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education: The Finale **11.15** The Revolution Will Be Televised **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Comedy Fest Live 2013 **1.30** Bad Education: The Finale **2.00** The Revolution Will Be Televised **2.30** Come Fly with Me **3.30** Bad Education: The Finale **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 (GMT) Under Milk Wood **8.00** Rome: A History of the Eternal City **9.00** Storyville: 112 Weddings **10.00** Foo Fighters: Sonic Highways **12.00** The Joy of Abba **1.00** Abba at the BBC **2.00** Agnetha: Abba & After **3.00** The Joy of Abba

ITV2
11.05 The X Factor **1.20** The Xtra Factor **2.20** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.30** You've Been Framed! **3.05** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **5.40** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Tricked **11.00** Film: House of Wax (2005) **1.15** Dads **2.05** Fake Reaction **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.55 Inspector Morse **2.00** Rosemary & Thyme **3.05** Film: The Secret of My Success (1987) **5.20** Film: Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **6.55** Lewis **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst **10.00** Film: Parenthood (1989) **12.30** William and Mary **2.20** Judge Judy **3.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.45 Ax Men **12.45** Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Mülheim, Germany. **5.00** World of Sport: TV Firsts **5.10** Tim Vine's Punslinger **6.45** Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Mülheim, Germany. **11.00** The Power of Darts **12.05** Film: Quadrophobia (1979) **2.30** Cheers **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.25 Made in Chelsea **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** Film: The Grinch (2000) **4.05** Melissa & Joey **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.30** The Inbetweeners **10.30** Drifters **11.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **11.35** Rude Tube: Viral Ads **12.35** Glue **1.40** Rules of Engagement **2.35** Rude Tube: Viral Ads **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 (GMT) Dark Command (1940) **1.00** Hocus Pocus (1993) **2.55** Tooth Fairy (2010) **5.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **6.40** Hugo (2011) **9.00** Double Jeopardy (1999) **11.10** Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) **1.15** This Boy's Life (1993) **3.40** Close

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MONDAY
Amityville II: The Possession, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A dysfunctional family moves into the infamous Long Island property, where the teenage son falls under the influence of sinister forces. Horror prequel, with Burt Young, Jack Wagner and James Olson. (1982)

TUESDAY
The Mothman Prophecies, BBC1, 11.55pm
A bereaved journalist gets inexplicably lost on his way to Virginia, and ends up in a rural backwater where the residents are reporting paranormal encounters and sightings of strange lights. He investigates further and is startled to uncover sightings of a huge moth-like creature. Supernatural thriller, with Richard Gere, Laura Linney, Will Patton and Debra Messing. (2002)

WEDNESDAY
Scary Movie 4, BBC1, 12.05am
Dim-witted Cindy Campbell gets a job as the caretaker of a haunted house, where she comes into contact with the ghost of a little Japanese boy. He tells her he knows a secret way to rid the Earth of invading aliens – but then he unfortunately vanishes before passing it on to her. Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris. (2006)



Poltergeist, Friday, Channel 5, 11.55pm

THURSDAY
Sacrifices of the Heart, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A Los Angeles lawyer returns to the family home when she learns her estranged father has started to show signs of Alzheimer's disease. Drama, starring Melissa Gilbert, Ken Howard and Lisa Pelikan. (2007)

FRIDAY
Paranormal Activity, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple move into a new house, only to be disturbed by unexplained supernatural phenomena. They become convinced the property is haunted and set out to capture evidence of their ghostly encounters on film. Horror, with Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat. (2007)

Poltergeist, Channel 5, 11.55pm
A family experiences strange events after invisible phantoms invade its home. At first the ghosts seem harmless, simply making things move by themselves. But before long, they spirit away the five-year-old daughter to their own plane of existence, forcing her parents to call on paranormal researchers to find their missing child. Horror, with JoBeth Williams, Craig T Nelson and Heather O'Rourke. (1982)

Secrets and lies from the past come to light

How do you like your dramas? Straight down the line, or with a twist or two? Maybe with an offbeat or supernatural element, and perhaps a few stars thrown in for good measure? If you're nodding your head in answer of any or all of those questions, then Intruders, a new, eight-part series made by BBC America, could be for you.

Taking the lead is John Simm, and any new programme featuring him is always worth a look. But when you hear he's appearing in something that has already gone down a storm in the US, it becomes a must-see.

The only problem is, if it becomes as big a hit as it seems set to do, Intruders may take Simm away from our own shores for some time, because he will suddenly become a man in demand Stateside.

So brace yourself for that happening – and for the big hole in British drama that Simm will leave if he does depart.

Intruders is a paranormal drama based on a novel by acclaimed English author Michael Marshall Smith, who claims he was inspired to

write it by the notion that we can, at times, seem like more than one person.

It has an excellent pedigree in other respects too – the script has been written by Glen Morgan, who is also the executive producer; genre fans will be familiar with him via his work on The X-Files.

What's more, several episodes have been directed by Eduardo Sanchez, who first found fame via his work on low-budget smash-hit horror movie The Blair Witch Project in 1999.

The rest have been helmed by Daniel Stamm, whose previous work includes the films 13 Sins and The Last Exorcism.

Intruders made its debut in the US in August, and when it was broadcast alongside the first episode of Peter Capaldi's stint in Doctor Who, helped land the station its biggest-ever Saturday night ratings.

Kim Shillinglaw, Controller of BBC Two, says: "Drama on BBC Two continues to be a stand-out success and we have plenty more to look forward to this year, from the return of hit series Peaky Blinders and The Fall,

to this striking new thriller. "With a world renowned cast and an impressive creative team, this chilling and contemporary drama will keep viewers on the edge of their seats this autumn."

The plot focuses on a shadowy organisation dedicated to chasing immortality by inhabiting other people's bodies.

Simm stars as ex-LA cop Jack Whelan, who becomes suspicious of the group's activities after his wife Amy disappears.

Whelan becomes obsessed with tracking Amy down, using the skills he learnt as a cop to follow her trail. But as he becomes increasingly consumed by his quest, he begins to question whether he really knew her at all...

Oscar-winning actress Mira Sorvino also stars, alongside James Frain, Millie Brown and Tony Kittles.

"Intruders is a truly unsettling drama – eerie, intriguing, complex and compelling," says Sue Deeks, head of BBC programme acquisition.

We can't wait to see for ourselves.



John Simm and Mira Sorvino star in Intruders, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Marilyn Monroe: The Missing Evidence Channel 5, 8pm

New series. Investigating the evidence that supports some of the world's most notorious conspiracy theories. Though she officially committed suicide, some people have long claimed that the FBI, the Mafia and even the Kennedy family may have been involved in Marilyn Monroe's death. This programme looks at some of these claims, and also reveals the contents of tape recordings made inside Monroe's house on the fateful day of August 5, 1962, which suggest her psychiatrist may have been responsible for her death.

Baby P: The Untold Story BBC1, 8.30pm

In November 2008, the story of the death of a 17-month-old toddler horrified the nation. Then known only as Baby P, he had been subjected to a prolonged period of abuse and neglect. But perhaps the most shocking part of the story involved the authorities whose job it was to protect Baby P, later named as Peter Connelly. It was revealed that he and his family were visited more than 60 times by various agencies, and yet his suffering continued. This documentary examines the story in detail, and speaks to some of those connected with the case and its aftermath.

TUESDAY
The Missing BBC1, 9pm

A strong cast and a premise that plays on every parent's nightmare should make this new drama series unmissable. James Nesbitt and Frances O'Connor star as Tony and Emily Hughes, whose five-year-old son Oliver goes missing during a family holiday in France in 2006. The strain takes it toll on their marriage, but Tony refuses to give up hope that his son will be found alive, so when a new shred of evidence emerges, eight years on from Oliver's disappearance, the father returns to France.

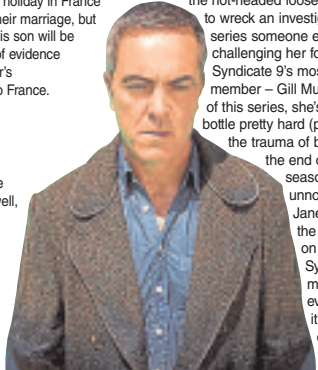
WEDNESDAY
The Apprentice BBC1, 9pm

It's safe to say the recent 'wearable technology' task didn't go all that well, as the girls came up with a jacket with solar-powered shoulder pads, while the boys designed a jumper with an inbuilt camera that Daniel Lassman pitched to a retailer by admitting he probably wouldn't wear it in public. However, this week, the would-be entrepreneurs are getting a second chance to prove that they are savvy when it

comes to 21st-century technology, as Alan Sugar challenges them to create their own online video channels to go live on YouTube.

Scott & Bailey ITV, 9pm

We always thought Rachel was supposed to be the hot-headed loose cannon most likely to wreck an investigation, but in this series someone else has been challenging her for the title of Syndicate 9's most irresponsible member – Gill Murray. Over the course of this series, she's been hitting the bottle pretty hard (probably do deal with the trauma of being kidnapped at the end of the previous season), and it's not gone unnoticed by Rachel and Janet. However, following the discovery of slaves on the Pritchard farm, Syndicate 9 is under more scrutiny than ever – which means it's a particularly disastrous time for the boss to come in reeking of booze.



The Missing, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Life Story BBC1, 9pm

Sir David Attenborough's back on our screens having travelled the globe in filming his latest series, Life Story, in which he narrates the stories of animals' journeys through life. In this second episode, he follows a tiger cub whose family is under threat, a vulnerable veined octopus and a pair of sibling cheetahs guarding against starvation, and the naturalist explains how the animals develop new skills and learn how to survive on their own.

FRIDAY
Citizen Khan BBC1, 8.30pm

During a recent episode of Would I Lie To You? Adil Ray revealed he had once been told off by a Greek boat owner for sailing too far out to sea. That's definitely not to kind of thing Mr Khan would get up to. Ray writes and stars in this sitcom about Khan's often fraught life, and while many may be surprised to see it back for a new series – it hasn't always had great reviews – it has grown an army of fans big enough to warrant a recommitment. The first episode sees the Khan family return from a trip to Pakistan with Mrs Khan's mother in tow. Mr Khan isn't pleased about her presence, but cheers up when she announces her plan to move into a care home.

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Contact Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit the www.scriven.co.uk website



Office/gym room at £190,000 property

A THREE-BEDROOMED detached house in Castle Road West, Oldbury, is for sale through Braithwaites at £190,000.

It has an entrance hall, a front reception room with a wooden fire surround, a covered side passage, kitchen, a tall boy cupboard, built-in wine rack, tiled floor and folding doors opening into the extended family room with under floor heating. Bedroom one has built-in wardrobes, there are two further bedrooms and a bathroom, a front garden with a block paved driveway and rear garden laid to lawn with flower borders for plants and shrubbery, mature trees, a shed and office/gym/playroom with power. Contact Braithwaites on 0121 4211180 or visit www.braithwaites-estate-agents.co.uk



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**AUCTION GUIDE PRICE
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Imperial Avenue K'minster DY10 2RA

A spacious detached bungalow with lower ground floor, requiring refitting and refurbishment, on large plot. Porch. Hall. Three Bedrooms. Living Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. Rear Porch. Verandah. Lower ground floor level - storage rooms. Garage and driveway. Energy Rating TBC



**AUCTION GUIDE PRICE
£130,000 - £145,000**

St Cecilia Close K'minster DY10 1LW

A one bedroom apartment located on the seventh floor of this purpose built block offering spacious accommodation. Suiting owner/occupation or possible investment property. Hall. Bathroom. Double Bedroom. Living Room. Kitchen. Energy Rating C



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Bungalow £159,950 has attractive double front



A STUNNING double fronted bungalow in Meadow Lane, Bilston, is ready to move in to and will be of interest to garden lovers.

Just a short walk from Coseley Station, it is for sale through Rees Page at £159,950 with no chain. It has a reception hall, inner hallway, a lounge with a bay window, dining room with built-in cupboard, a kitchen with a built-under oven, a four-ring gas hob, three bedrooms, a re-styled bathroom with Velux-style skylight window, a front garden and rear garden with a shed. Contact Rees page on 01902 577799 or visit www.reespage.net



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COSELEY



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£575 pcm*

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WOODHOUSE ORCHARD BELBROUGHTON

A two bedroom Mid Terrace Property situated in a highly desirable village location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, open plan foregarden and enclosed rear garden affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£675PCM DEPOSIT £775 + FEES



PERROTT GARDENS CLOCKFIELDS

An extremely well presented modern two bedroom property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of hall, sitting room, beech styled kitchen with integrated hob and oven, two first floor bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES

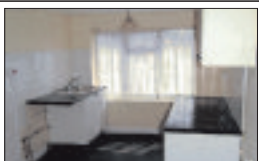


DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom modern starter home situated in a popular development with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having allocated parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 + FEES



BRETTELL LANE AMBLECOTE

A spacious one bedroom first floor flat located for easy access to Merry Hill centre with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bedroom one and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, and double glazing. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

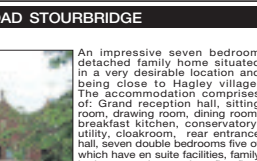


GREENSFORGE LANE STOURTON

An elegant and impressive house set in a mature wooded setting offering both seclusion and privacy and being close to Stourbridge, having excellent road links and schools. The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, games room, conservatory, cloakroom, cellar, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. The property further boasts integral garaging, driveway affording parking, beautiful terraced garden with mature woodland, all weather tennis court and outbuildings. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£5000PCM DEPOSIT £10000 + FEES



QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£2999PCM DEPOSIT £3099 + FEES



COT LANE KINGSWINFORD

A stylish superbly appointed and spacious four bedroom detached family home situated at this highly sought after location and close to all local amenities. The accommodation comprises of: Canopy entrance, reception hall, walk in downstairs store, cloakroom, lounge, open plan dining/kitchen, utility room, conservatory, four bedrooms (master en-suite), house bathroom and garage. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, block paved driveway and rear garden. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£1200PCM DEPOSIT £1300 + FEES



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



BICKON DRIVE QUARRY BANK

A delightful modern three storey four bedroom Town House with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs WC, study/snug, kitchen/diner, lounge, four bedrooms, master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, lawned fore garden, enclosed rear garden with patio area and single garage. PART FURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£695PCM - DEPOSIT £795 + FEES



IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£950PCM DEPOSIT £1050 + FEES



VICAR STREET SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented three bedroom detached property with accommodation to comprise of kitchen, lounge/diner, master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, central heating, tarmacaded driveway affording off road parking to the fore, garage with separate boiler store and to the rear of the property there is a patio, lawned garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£695PCM DEPOSIT £795 + FEES



MAYNARD AVENUE NORTON

A well presented three bedroom and terrace property situated in a popular residential location, accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, the property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM DEPOSIT £750 + FEES

CLARENCE STREET SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM - DEPOSIT £625 + FEES



WATERWAYS DRIVE OLDBURY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and enclosed rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500 PCM DEPOSIT £600 + FEES



ELBOW STREET CRADLEY

A two bedroom unfurnished apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private reception, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from electric storage heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£480PCM DEPOSIT £580 + FEES

HAGLEY ROAD HALESOWEN

A deceptively spacious three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having night storage heating and double glazing. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKING: NO

£425PCM DEPOSIT £525 + FEES



MORVALE GARDENS LYE

A Spacious and extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts Gas central heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£425PCM DEPOSIT £525 + FEES

KINGS MEWS KINGS COURT

A modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in walking distance of Wollaton Village with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, shower room and bedroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, off road communal parking and decked patio area. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



BALLARAT WALK STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise Communal Entrance, private entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, communal gardens and communal parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES

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LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM - DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

Pulsar looks like business

By Sharon Walters

Nissan re-enters the family hatchback sector with the Pulsar, a somewhat conservative alternative to its extrovert crossovers like the Juke.

The engine range is limited but will expand with sportier models coming on stream. It's early days yet but the omens appear very promising.

Almost a decade ago, Nissan did something radical, something that's never been done by a mass market car manufacturer before. It abandoned the traditional genres of family hatchbacks and medium range saloons, ditching the Almera and Primera models and concentrated instead on crossovers and SUVs. Cars like the massive-selling Qashqai and the Juke became Nissan's bread and butter and many other manufacturers scrambled to copy Nissan's model of success.

You can probably guess what happens next. Just as everyone else jumps ship to flood the market with lookalike crossovers, Nissan has decided to go back to the market it last served with the rather forgettable Almera. This time it revives an old name.

The Pulsar has been fitted with an all-turbocharged range of engines, as is the current vogue, largely carried over from the Qashqai range. Petrol buyers don't get a lot of choice as its stands with just a downsized 115PS 1.2-litre DIG-T engine available, although dealers will take orders for the 190PS 1.6-litre DIG-T that's proven popular in the Juke. Choose diesel, as

most UK buyers in this class do, and you get to select between a 110PS 1.6-litre diesel and, well, that's it. Where the diesel is solely offered with a six-speed manual transmission, the petrol engine comes with the choice of a manual or a six-speed Xtronic automatic gearbox.

Nissan hasn't done anything too radical to the styling of the Pulsar. It's almost as if they want to re-enter the market quietly, appealing to more conservative buyers who couldn't picture themselves behind the wheel of a Juke or a Qashqai.

The Barcelona-built Pulsar features instantly recognisable Nissan hallmarks like the V-motion grille and boomerang-shaped lighting signature with bold and energetic curves on the body side. It features some bold surfacing on the flanks although there are aspects of the rear end that are quite Corolla.

The interior features higher quality materials than we've seen on Nissan hatches to date, and there seems to have been a concerted effort to create a common look and feel across typefaces and grains on the dash. Thanks to the longest wheelbase in the class at 2,700mm, the Pulsar offers considerably more rear legroom and shoulder room than its sector rivals.

The entry level Visia is priced from £15,995 and gets a strong standard equipment count including a 5" colour screen, steering wheel mounted controls, Bluetooth and air conditioning. Step up to the Acenta model and another £1,700 or so nets you added extras like Forward Emergency Braking, automatic lights and wipers and Nissan's ingenious i-Key system. The n-tec versions adds 17" alloys, privacy



.....
'It's almost as if they want to re-enter the market quietly, appealing to more conservative buyers
.....

glass and Nissan's signature LED lights. It also offers a colour reversing camera and NissanConnect 2, an infotainment system offering full smartphone integration, Google Send-to-Car and access to a wide variety of apps.

At the top of the range is the Tekna, priced from £20,345, which gets further Nissan Safety Shield Technologies including Forward Emergency Braking, Moving Object Detection, Lane Departure Warning and Blind Spot Warning for the ultimate in passenger protection. Even the entry level model is well kitted out for safety equip-

ment with six airbags, wheel-mounted audio controls, a tyre pressure monitoring system, anti lock brakes backed up by electronic brakeforce distribution, and a stability control system that also include Nissan's Active Trace Control, which keeps you from deviating from your steered path.

We suspect that this will be a toe in the water for Nissan with more charismatic NISMO performance models slated for future release. It's been a long time coming but the Pulsar looks as if it means business.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂. Zafira 1.6i 16v VVT (Manual5), Manual 5-speed: Urban 32.5 (8.7), Extra-urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 42.2 (6.7). CO₂ emissions 157g/km.

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Ford C-Max hits spot and is an easy choice

By James Parker

Compromise doesn't have to be a dirty word. In fact, intelligent compromise is exactly what underpins the design of Ford's C-MAX compact MPV.

Here's a car that needs to be big enough to fit family and luggage but not so big that it's too hard to pilot around town or park. It requires an engine with the torque to move a fully loaded car but not one that's so thirsty that the family purse strings are going to be stretched to breaking point. It would need all the modern safety and convenience features that buyers demand, but pricing that isn't out of reach of wage packets that already have school uniforms to buy and hungry mouths to feed.

Hitting the sweet spot in all of those decisions and many others beside is where the expertise lies and is the reason why the C-MAX is one of the biggest selling cars in its class. Ford first introduced this compact MPV model in 2003 and since then has sold more than 1.2 million in Europe and currently holds a 12 per cent market share.

The C-MAX was always an easy pick for anyone who enjoyed driving. It was by far the best car in its class when showed a B-road.

Now that the Golf SV is around, that superiority is no longer quite so cut and dried, but it's still a class act. Particular attention this time round has been paid to improving refinement.

Noise, vibration and harshness have been improved through the use of thicker side glass and more absorbent seals around the tailgate and rear view mirror. The engine bay heat shield has been filled with acoustic damping material to reduce powertrain noise and diesel variants are equipped with extra acoustic seals to further reduce noise intrusion. A re-tuned dual mass flywheel helps to reduce shaking forces when the engine is under load, while revised engine mounts offer improved refinement during Auto-Start-Stop operation.

The star of the engine line-up is the 120PS 1.5-litre TDCi diesel engine, seen for the first time in the C-MAX, replacing the old 1.6-litre unit. Power goes up by five per cent while emissions drop by six points.

There are also the multi-award winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol engines, offered once again in 100 and 125PS outputs. The big banger in the range is a revised 2.0-litre diesel.

The design of this C-MAX is evolutionary, with many of the details being brought up to date to reflect contemporary Ford thinking.

The dynamic styling delivers a stronger, sleeker front end, featuring Ford's distinctive inverted trapezoidal grille.

The washer jets have been hidden underneath the windscreen to give a cleaner look while the tailgate has been given a smoother and more sophisticated one-piece appearance.

Inside, you'll find a dash that's a lot less fussy than the previous model, reflecting the customer-led design refinements that have already been executed on the Focus. There are fewer controls and switches, while the new black satin trim and chrome detailing contributes to a cleaner look. Functions are simpler to use, such as the air-conditioning controls that now feature buttons that are easier to recognise and distinguish from each other. Practicality improves too, with a redesigned centre storage console.

The seats still tumble down individually in one motion to create a flat floor, with over 470-litres of space with all five seats in place.

Gizmos

Ford has gone quite big on electronic gizmos in this latest iteration of the C-MAX. The last model also had a lot of smart tech features and Ford rightly left most of them on the options list, giving customers the choice of whether they wanted to pay extra or not for these nice-to-haves. You can now get one of those tailgate openers which operate when you wave your foot under the bumper.

There's also a perpendicular parking system and Active City Stop collision avoidance that operates at up to 31mph. Ford's latest Sync2 voice-activated connectivity system is also on offer, delivering smartphone sync and the chance to control some of the car's minor functions by voice command. The clearer eight-inch colour touchscreen is a welcome addition.

Ford also bring us MyKey technology, which lets parents set a top speed and limit stereo volume in advance to prevent the young 'uns getting a bit overexcited.

The diesel models really come into their own when you're willing to put some miles on the clock. If you want the C-MAX as a school run and shopping vehicle, you'd be better advised going for one of the economical 1.0-litre petrol models as they're priced so cheaply as to be a more cost-effective purchase.

Really leverage the economy benefits of the diesel engine though and you'll save big. The 1.5-litre TDCi diesel returns a combined fuel economy figure of better than 65mpg. Go for the 2.0-litre and it will also get around 60mpg. Insurance reflects the C-MAX's family owner profile, excellent safety and security record and low cost of repairs. The 1.6-litre model is expected to be rated at just Group 16E.

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Brindley deposit contribution	\$499.00	36 monthly payments	\$174.98
Customer deposit	\$3,400.00	Optional final payment	\$5,105.65
Total deposit	\$3,899.00	Duration of agreement	36 months
Amount of credit	\$9,100.00	Representative APR	10.9%
Total charge for credit	\$2,304.93	Annual mileage	6,000
Repayment balance	\$11,404.93	Excess mileage charge per mile	2.44p

Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Diesel SE Plus £18,999 with a customer saving of £3,460

Cash price	£18,999.00	Total amount payable	\$22,664.06
Brindley deposit contribution	\$499.00	36 monthly payments	\$274.74
Customer deposit	\$4,075.00	Optional final payment	\$8,199.42
Total deposit	\$4,574.00	Duration of agreement	36 months
Amount of credit	\$14,425.00	Representative APR	10.9%
Total charge for credit	\$3,665.06	Annual mileage	6,000
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Fuel consumption figures for Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions: 99g/km; Jazz 1.4 i-TEC Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions: 129g/km.

Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience. **Model Shown:** Jazz 1.4 i-TEC ES Plus in Milano Red. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on Jazz 1.4 i-TEC SE Plus Manual low mileage 64 registered at £12,999 total cash price, total amount payable £15,303.93 with 36 months 10.9% APR Representative with £3,400.00 customer deposit, £174.98 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of \$5,105.65 with agreed mileage of 18,500 and excess mileage charge: 2.44p per mile. **Model Shown:** Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in Twilight Blue Metallic. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on low mileage Civic 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus Manual at £18,999 total cash price, total amount payable £22,664.06 with 36 months 10.9% APR Representative with £4,075.00 customer deposit, £274.74 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of \$8,199.42 with agreed mileage of 18,500 and excess mileage charge: 3.84p per mile. **Terms & conditions:** Event ends 31st October 2014. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum agreed mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8GJ. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312511. **Servicing:** All scheduled complimentary servicing (when purchased with Honda Aspirations), as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 3 years or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first.

Mazda3 sets benchmark

By David Banner

There's a lot to tempt buyers to take a look at the new Mazda3. It has strong residual values, lowest average depreciation and 2014/15 company car benefit-in-kind tax bills lower than a host of rivals.

Data from vehicle valuation experts CAP Automotive reveals the new SKYACTIV Mazda3 range tops the table and beats lower-medium sector rivals in terms of average forecasted pound-note depreciation.

And company car drivers wanting to cut their benefit-in-kind tax bills can make significant savings against more expensive rivals.

The all-new Mazda3 is the third car in the marque's line-up to benefit from SKYACTIV technology and the 36-strong model line-up offers precision handling, exceptionally generous interior cabin space and sporty design. And it carries on the proved popularity since hitting the roads at the turn of the year, with sales exceeding all expectations at around 3,000 for the first quarter.

And starting with the looks, if cars did benefit from working out, it would be the new Mazda3. It's lost weight, and become shapelier, more agile and has rivals looking on with envy. While it bears the same name as the outgoing hatchback, the Mazda3 is new from the ground up. Larger than its predecessor but engineered for fuel economy, it has features which have also paid dividends in terms of safety, roadholding and the fun-to-drive factor.

The car is a fraction lower, visually fitting in with its curving lines and sculpted sur-

faces while also helping to reduce drag. In the four-door Fastback, the long boot has a useful 419 litres of space, slightly more than its hatchback stablemate which also has the practicality of split/fold rear seats.

The fascia is made of what looks like durable textured plastics, with an instrument binnacle comprising two information displays either side of a large rev counter. Inset is a big, clear digital speed readout.

The latest Mazda3 gets four engine options, all of which are designed around Mazda's SkyActiv technology. SkyActiv aims to improve efficiency by reducing weight and utilising smart functions such as capturing waste energy to power things like the air-conditioning when the car is stationary.

Closes

It even extends to functions like an active shutter front grille which closes for better aerodynamics when the engine isn't in immediate need of cooling.

Engines comprise an entry-level 1.5-litre petrol and two 2.0-litre petrol units, as well as a 2.2-litre diesel.

The 1.5-litre engine produces 99bhp and will go from rest to 62mph in 10.8 seconds, while the 2.2-litre diesel will cover the sprint in 8.1 seconds, thanks to its punchy 148bhp engine.

The 2.0-litre petrol engine is offered in two options – one with 118bhp and the other with 165bhp. As for performance, 0 to 62mph in 8.9 seconds for the standard version and 8.2 seconds for the higher power version. Buyers of the 118bhp 2.0-litre petrol and the 2.2-litre diesel are also offered the option of a six-speed automatic.

The car is offered with the sort of hi-tech features that not so very long ago were the preserve of luxury saloons. There are



'Company car drivers wanting to cut their benefit-in-kind tax bills can make significant savings against more expensive rivals.'

refinements like a head-up display, touch-screen satellite-navigation and mobile internet connectivity. The mobile system is particularly interesting, following the likes of Toyota into the market with a system which allows the car to pair with a smartphone and display Facebook and Twitter updates. A nine-speaker Bose audio system is also available.

Buyers choose between SE, SE-L and Sport trim levels, with or without sat nav. Even the base SE comes with 16in alloy wheels, air conditioning, power-folding heated mirrors, a leather steering wheel, a trip computer, a radio/CD with six speaker

audio system, 7in TFT colour touch screen, USB/iPod connectivity and a Bluetooth system. All models also come with Smart City Brake Support (SCBS) which helps to reduce or prevent low-speed collisions by automatically applying the brakes if the driver fails to act, plus there's Hill Hold Assist (HHA) to prevent roll-back.

The latest car looks a good deal more assured, with a vastly improved interior, a focus on improving efficiency and a really sharp exterior styling job.

On-the-road prices start at £16,695 for the all-new Mazda3 1.5-litre SKYACTIV-G 100ps SE Hatchback.



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Saturday 20 December 2.30pm

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Bach Opening Chorus from Christmas Oratorio
Handel Let the Bright Seraphim
Mozart Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate
and **CAROLS FOR ALL**



Saturday 20 December 7.30pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Staged in full 18th Century costume in an evocative candle-lit style setting.
Handel Christmas sequence from Messiah
Bach Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Vivaldi Gloria (First Movement)
and **CAROLS FOR ALL**
MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA in full period costume



Monday 22 December 2.30pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

JONATHAN COHEN leads you through his most-loved carols and all-time Christmas hits.
Let it snow O little town of Bethlehem
Jingle Bells The Twelve Days of Christmas
Sleigh Ride Merry Christmas Everyone
London Concert Chorus & Orchestra
special guest **ALISON JIEAR**



Wednesday 24 December 2.30pm

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

Perfectly captures the true spirit of Christmas.
Gruber Silent Night **Adam** O Holy Night
Haydn Trumpet Concerto (Last Movement)
Bach Sheep may safely graze and **CAROLS FOR ALL**
Birmingham Choral Union
Staffordshire Children's Choir
London Concert Orchestra



Saturday 27 December 2.30pm

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Saturday 27 December 7.30pm

LAST NIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS PROMS

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Puccini O soave fanciulla from La bohème
Verdi Brindisi from La traviata **Elgar** Nimrod
And all your Proms favourites **Hornpipe** **Nessun Dorma**
Rule, Britannia! Land of Hope & Glory



Sunday 28 December 2.30pm

GLORIOUS HANDEL BY CANDLELIGHT

Handel's masterpieces performed in full period costume in an evocative candle-lit style setting.
Zadok the Priest Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Let the Bright Seraphim Sarabande Trumpet Suite
Mozart Festival Chorus
Mozart Festival Orchestra in full 18th century costume



Sunday 28 December 7.30pm

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Monday 29 December 7.30pm

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Tuesday 30 December 7.30pm

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Symphony No. 9 'Choral'
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Thursday 1 January 2.30pm

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Tritsch Tratsch Polka The Laughing Song
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business opportunities

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flats for sale

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houses for sale



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8 Motoring

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PEUGEOT 206 1.4, HDI, 07, 50,000 miles, FSH, 3dr, silver, immaculate condition. Two owners. MoT. £1,595. 07957 674306.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.5DCI, 7 seater, 2005, MoT, FSH, economical, 1st to see will buy £2,250 ono. 07882 695075

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 2010, 40,000 miles, black, one owner, 16v SRI, 3dr, hatchback, private sale £5,995. 07702 038750



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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2S, 55 plate, 60k miles, black, good condition, 8 months MoT, e/w, CD player, 3 door, £1,750 ono. 07941 233197.

VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2
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PEUGEOT 306 Diesel, P reg, short MoT, 2dr, lady owner, genuine reason for sale, 73k, £300 ono. Dudley 07759 827185.

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 03 reg, 5dr, silver, 54,000 miles, 6 months MoT, good condition, £1,100. 07550 113660

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 Auto, 2000, W reg, MoT Feb, 81k, fsh, good condition, drive away £325. 07709 411216

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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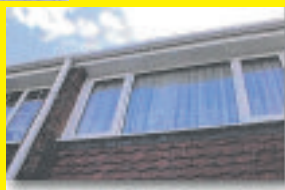


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Top five players pull off victory

THIS was an excellent week for Stourbridge chess club.

The Birmingham Division 1 team travelled to West Bromwich and fielded our top five players for the first time with Dave Scriven as a reserve on board six.

West Bromwich were at full strength with their own International Master on board one and a 215 rated board two against our grandmaster Keith Arkell and Jeremy Fallowfield.

First to finish was Dave who won in 11 moves.

Next to finish was Nick Arkell who also won. Jeremy Fallowfield and Greg Dyett also won meaning putting Stourbridge 4-0 ahead to win the match. In light of this, Nic Fallowfield and Keith Arkell agreed draws for a score of 5-1.

The second team was at full strength to host Halesowen B in Wolverhampton Division 2. This was a chance to avenge the two defeats suffered last season.

Unfortunately, Halesowen were unable to raise a team and defaulted the match.

A depleted Wolverhampton Division 3 team made the long journey to Lichfield and came away with the win.

Unbeaten run for seconds

THE Lions 2nds continued their unbeaten start to their first season in Midlands West Reserve league Division 3, winning 35-19 away at leaders Luctonians 3rds.

Two tries each for Paul Harper-Smith and George Tildesley plus one from Harry Wainwright and five conversions from young scrum half Olly Shergold saw the Lions 2nds replacing their hosts at the top of the table.

The Lions 3rds competed strongly in their friendly game away at a strong Chaddeley Corbett 2nds before succumbing to a 21-27 defeat. Tries for captain Simon Blackadder, wing Darron Felton and centre Damian Kelly plus three conversion from Alex 'Niche' Hill.

Injury puts Glassboy Ben in hospital



Injury – Ben Billingham

STOURBRIDGE midfielder Ben Billingham remains in hospital after a horror injury at the weekend.

The 25-year-old from Quarry Bank suffered a dislocation and two fractures to the ankle in Saturday's 4-1 defeat at Matlock Town.

No date has been put on how long the player, who works as a bricklayer's labourer, will be out for.

Billingham has undergone two operations at a Chesterfield hospital but it is hoped the player will be transferred to Dudley's Russell's Hall Hospital today.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett described the in-

Football

jury as "horrific". "I've been involved in football for a long time and it was one of those rare freak accidents that you never want to see in sport, but sadly it happened to Ben," said Hackett.

Spirits

"It was innocuous – he went to block something and his foot got caught in the ground.

"I've spoken to him and he's in good spirits. You could not wish to meet a nicer guy. It's a terrible moment for everyone involved. The result is irrelevant." Billingham faces a spell off work but

Hackett said: "He's a contracted player and the club will look after him 100 per cent."

A club statement read: "The dislocation was corrected on Saturday night and he has had an operation to insert a plate.

"His condition will be monitored over the next couple of days when a decision will be taken on discharging him from hospital in Chesterfield.

"We'd also like to thank the medical staff at Matlock Town alongside our own Richard Drewett for their swift aid in treating Ben."

Billingham has been inundated with goodwill messages on social media.

Lions roar to stem their losing streak

Stourbridge 30 Stafford 12

AFTER three consecutive losses Stourbridge Lions stormed back to winning ways at home against bottom club Stafford.

They came through with an ultimately comprehensive 30-12 bonus point victory which cemented their mid-table position in Midlands 2 West North.

Early inroads into the Stafford half saw Joe Lovero-ck's powerful run down the right rewarded with an unconverted try in the corner after three minutes.

Stafford hit back quickly when a speculative kick to the edge of the Lions' 22 caused defensive hesitancy and a kind bounce back saw Stafford ground under the posts for a converted try. Sam Robinson, already showing great control at No.10, began a series of pressure phases with some fine kicks that pushed Stafford back for the next 20 minutes.

This resulted in a fine grubber through by Robinson from just inside the visiting 22.

The ball was pounced on by young winger Josh Tringham on the left for his first ever Lions try.

Then an almost identical kick by Robinson led to full back Duncan Chance touching down on the left. Both tries were unconverted.

By now the Lions pack was dominant in both scrum and lineout, a measure of their dominance being three scrums taken against the head and four line outs won on Stafford's throw, where captain Stuart Doolittle and lock Simon Crouch disrupted much of the Stafford ball.

Rugby

More significant by half-time was the penalty count, which was a vast improvement on the previous week at Shrewsbury. The half ended with a failed penalty attempt by Stafford.

The second period saw the Lions extend their lead with a fine try down the right.

It was engineered by a fine run and kick by scrum half Ben Tringham, and great speed and tenacity from right wing Will Fallows to beat the cover and touch down.

A fine conversion from Tringham looked to have given a match-winning lead of 22-7.

Unfortunately, Stafford were back in contention within five minutes, a try under the posts giving them some hope.

The rest of the game was largely played in midfield or the Stafford half, with a Tringham penalty restoring some of the advantage. Finally, a fine move from just outside the home 22 resulted in Josh Tringham cutting inside to the Stafford 22 and releasing Chance for his second try.

This week it's Wolverhampton.

Glassboys run in the cup comes to an end



Drew Canavan goes close for Stourbridge early in the second half during FA Cup Third qualifying round replay

Stourbridge 0 Shildon 2

SHILDON goalkeeper Kyle Hayes broke Stourbridge hearts as the Glassboys crashed out of the FA Cup.

Hayes pulled off a string of outstanding saves in the second half as sorry Stourbridge tried to repair the damage of a poor first half show.

In what proved a lack-lustre first half by Stourbridge, they fell behind on 34 minutes when Shildon's dangerous Ben Wood was allowed to turn

sharply from a throw-in and fire a shot which took a wicked deflection past flat-footed goalkeeper Dean Coleman.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett rang the changes at half-time, bringing on Jordan Fitzpatrick and Kristian Ramsey-Dickson.

Stourbridge looked a different side from that point and proceeded to bombard Shildon's goal. Full-back Peter Till picked out Kayelden

Brown who shot straight at Hayes on 48 minutes.

Moments later Hayes produced a fantastic fingertip save to turn a Will Richards header over the crossbar.

The Glassboys failed to make their period of pressure pay and the long distance visitors from County Durham sealed Stourbridge's fate with a second goal on 74 minutes when the Glassboys failed to clear a free-kick from substitute John Brackstone.

Squad 'must put focus on league'

GARY Hackett believes Stourbridge's shock FA Cup exit ended a 'welcome distraction' and now they must focus on league matters.

The Glassboys bowed out of the competition to Shildon in Tuesday's third qualifying round replay and now face a run of games in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division.

Defender Paul McCone returned to the club from Hednesford Town last week and, after being cup-tied against Shildon.

"Naturally we're disappointed to exit the cup, over the two games they deserved it, we simply didn't show up in the replay," said manager Hackett.

"But it's the first time in around ten years we've been beaten by a club below us in the FA Cup and while we've missed out on another potential cup run, it has opened up a great opportunity in the league.

"There hasn't been any kind of rhythm or routine. Of course the cup's a welcome distraction — we've been as successful as anybody — but now it's time for the league.

"We have lads coming back and fresh faces in so that's a boost," added Hackett.

Nelson is the hero for Bilston

Bilston Town 2 Dudley Town 1

BILSTON got back to winning ways with a spirited display that saw them come from behind to take all three points in this Black Country derby against a lively Dudley Town side.

Dudley had the better of the opening exchanges.

A Dudley corner on 16 minutes saw Darryl Hand rise highest to head home the opening goal for Dudley.

The constant pressure finally brought its reward a few minutes later, Mark Habbershaw heading down for Michael Nelson to strike home.

It was Nelson who slid the ball beneath the Dudley keeper for his, and Bilston's second.

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SPORT

Lions roar
Win sees squad stem
losing streak
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Horror breaks
Nasty injuries put
Glassboy in hospital
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Starke's aiming to keep the title

CRADLEY skipper Paul Starke is desperate to see his side retain their National League Fours title at Coventry this weekend.

A sensational maximum from Starke helped the Heathens claim a dramatic victory in the event last year on their way to a clean sweep of honours.

Despite a reshuffled side, the club have remained in rampant form in 2014 as they continue to dominate the third tier of British racing.

In-form Steve Worrall plus young guns Max Clegg and Tom Perry will join Starke to form a heavily-favoured Heathens quartet as they travel to Coventry searching for silverware on Sunday.

And Starke is desperate to repeat their success of 12 months ago on what promises to be an exciting afternoon.

Starke said: "Winning the Fours last year like we did was a great moment in the season, so to win it again this year would be awesome."

Heathens host their final home meeting of the season at Wolverhampton next Tuesday, October 28, when they face King's Lynn in the Knockout Cup Final.

Admission prices are pegged at the normal rate £11 adults, £8 concessions.

Kenny wants more of Sagbo

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett admits he expected more from Yannick Sagbo.

The 26-year-old on-loan Hull forward has made three appearances in his three-month stint so far without looking like scoring.

Head coach Jackett admits Sagbo, who is eligible for a recall next week, also looks short of sharpness.

"We were hoping he'd make an immediate impact - he wasn't brought in with us thinking 'we need three months with this guy'," said the boss. "It was with the intention that he could come in straight away. But he needs games to get to his sharpest."

"He looks short of match practice and he's been a substitute with me playing mainly Dave Edwards and Nouha Dicko."

Jackett hinted the Ivory Coast international must do more to earn more minutes.

Defenders must get tougher, warns Jackett

FRUSTRATED Kenny Jackett has ordered his Wolves defenders to toughen up to stop the flood of goals against them after they gave up a usual game-winning three goal lead.

Saturday's see-saw 3-3 draw at Millwall made it 11 goals conceded in the last four games after just three in eight beforehand and has left boss Jackett facing questions about Wolves' defence.

The Wanderers side threw away a 3-0 lead after set-piece efforts from Danny Batth, Ethan Ebanks-Landell and Bakary Sako inside 64 minutes were cancelled out

Football

by Lee Gregory and a brace from veteran substitute Ricardo Fuller.

And following the late collapse, Jackett wants his defensive players to be stronger to deal with the physical side of the Championship which is only going to get tougher as the season heads towards its climax.

"There are a lot of headers and a lot of first and second balls you have to deal with in this division, and you have to be big enough and strong enough to cope with

that," said the head coach. There was a physical pressure right along our back four all of the time and it's something we haven't withstood particularly well.

"We had to deal with a hell of a lot of long balls on Saturday," added Jackett after the game.

Jackett changed half of his back four for the return to his old club, dropping ever-present Richard Stearman and Scott Golbourne to the bench as Ebanks-Landell made his first appearance in the Championship and Tommy Rowe was switched to left-back.

"I wouldn't say they (goals against) are all down to one person but it was disappointing," said Jackett.

"It's something we need to improve upon. "If you're going to pick up points on a regular basis you need to concede zeros and ones.

"Conceding three can't happen too often if you want to be successful."

Wolves now face being fined by the FA after having six players booked during the clash on Saturday, while Millwall had one player booked and Shaun Williams was sent off at the death.

Fast Lye hand out high five

Heath Hayes 0 Lye Town 5
HEATH Hayes struggled from the start against a very quick Lye side who showed pace from the start with Russell and Anslow giving Hayes back four a torrid time.

Lye took the lead on five minutes after good work by Richard Anslow laying the ball into the path of Daniel Jones who took his chance and fired home to open the scoring.

Four minutes later Billy Russell was bought down for a penalty which Damian Whitcombe put away to set Lye on course for what would turn out to be a rout.

On 30 minutes things got worse for Hayes when Tom Baggot received a red card for a tug on Russell.

Hayes completed a miserable first half when Harry Phillips' diving header found its way past his own keeper for the best own goal seen on our ground for many a year.

The second half continued much as the first with Hayes keeper Tom Burns making two fantastic saves before Mark Danks added the final two goals in the 70th and 80th minutes. Heath Hayes face Stoke on October 28.

Dash make good run in Brum

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers athletes were well to the fore in this week-end's Great Birmingham Run.

Rob Meredith had a great run to finish an excellent 51st in a time of 1.18.8. Dave Nation was 63rd in 1.18.59 and Dave Ratcliffe just behind in 66th place in 1.19.25.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, October 23

PENALTIES BRING STOUR DOWNFALL

Stourbridge 23 Otley RUFC 37

WITH a two score lead at half time Stour looked capable of holding on despite fighting a gusting breeze.

But a lengthy injury break just before half time seemed to upset their composure. Otley seized the initiative and a rash of penalty concessions denied the hosts any second half continuity.

The game was barely a couple of minutes old when Otley winger Harry Hudson crossed the line unchallenged.

Stour hit back though when a dangerous tackle was penalised and Jamie Hearn slotted a straightforward kick at goal.

Outside half Gary Dipple then celebrated his first league start of the season by ghosting through the defensive line and linking with centre Stef Shillingford who executed a simple draw and give for Hearn to score.

Benefit

With the benefit of the breeze Stour continued to exert pressure and were rewarded with a penalty in Otley's 22 as defenders strayed offside.

They opted for a kick to the corner and after a series of drives stressed the defences a pinpoint pass from scrum half Joe Murphy located hooker Dale Garner who crossed to score. Jamie Hearn converted.

Stour drew another defensive penalty in the Otley 22 and kicked to the corner to set up a catch and drive, but the Otley defence was solid and the opportunity wasted when Murphy's chip

Rugby

through was easily defused.

With four minutes in the half remaining, Stour secured a penalty as Otley tighthead James Stannard illegally drove Garner upwards out of the scrum, but the kick to the corner again failed to bear fruit as Otley held firm.

The first scrum of the second half saw a penalty award to Otley, they kicked for territory and then ran the ball down the back line.

The hosts' defences were caught dozing again, a first up tackle missed and the ball worked wide to create a simple overlap for fullback Arnold Ellison.

A Depledge penalty then secured the lead.

Otley set up a string of attacks and worked the ball wide to Hudson who barged off an ineffective tackle to score in the corner. Stour briefly rallied seeing Harper barge over.

Depledge hit back though with two successful penalties before Dipple hit one for the hosts.

The referee awarded a penalty try that denied the hosts even a losing bonus point.



Stourbridge's Ben Barkley on the attack during the match against Yorkshire team Otley

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